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Shojo Beat

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Story & Art by
Aya Nakahara

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Glossary184

The Story So Far. . .

Risa and Ôtani are their class's lapsed comedy duo...and they've become a couple! Now they face a new problem: their plans for the future. Ôtani starts prepping for the entrance exams for a teachers' college while Risa, on her friend Nabu's advice, decides to study fashion and become a stylist. After driving Risa up the wall with worry, Ôtani passes his exams and gets into the college of his choice. But their friends Chiharu and Suzuki, who planned to go to college together, learn that Suzuki has failed his exams. Chiharu's stalker/admirer Hasakawa asks Suzuki to give up on Chiharu, and the defeated Suzuki lamely replies, "I'll think about it." Upon hearing this, Chiharu explodes in anger...

♥ To really get all the details, check out *Lovely Complex* vols. 1-12, available at bookstores everywhere!!

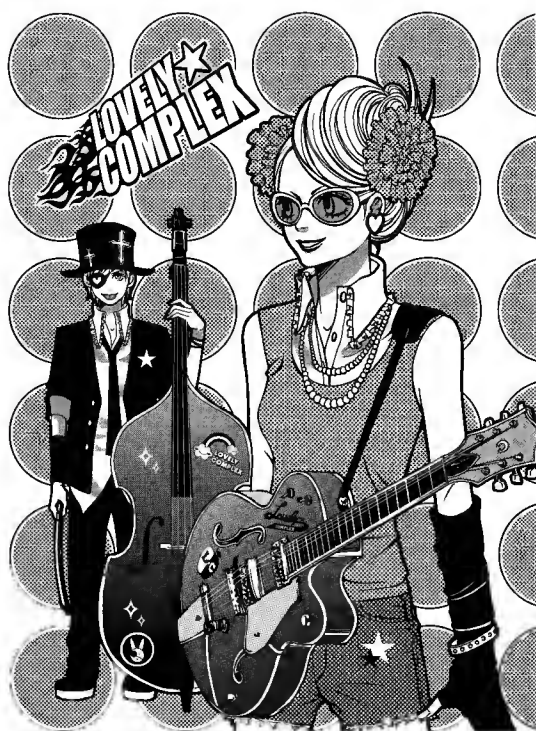
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LOVELY★COMPLEX

13



Story & Art by
Aya Nakahara



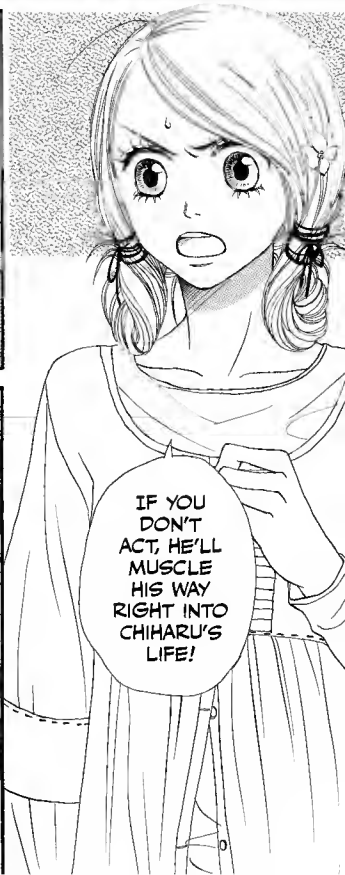


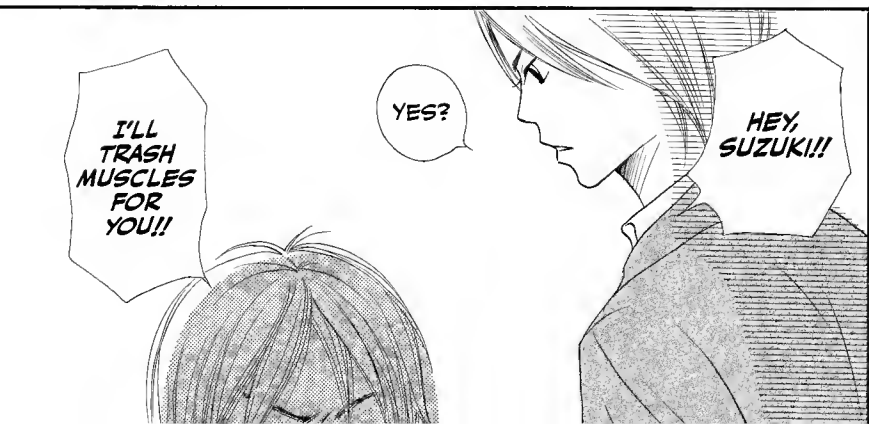
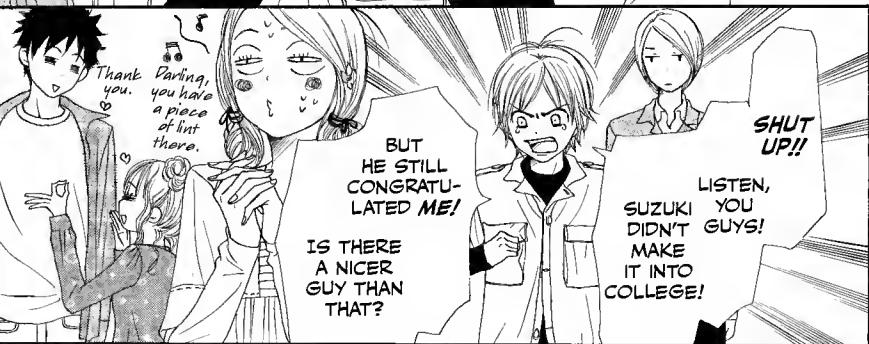
CHAPTER 48













SUZUKI
!!

YOU'RE AN
AWESOME
GUY!!

YOU
GOT
CUT OUT
OF THE
PANEL
AGAIN.

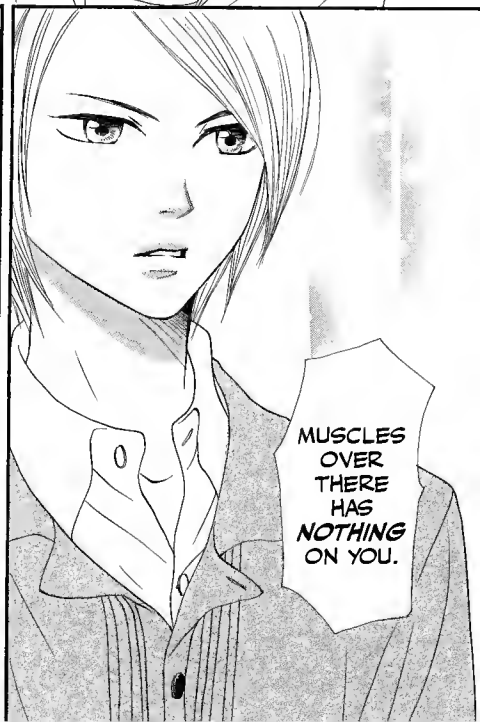
DON'T
STEP
ON MY
LINES!
I'M BUSY
BEING
COOL
OVER
HERE!!



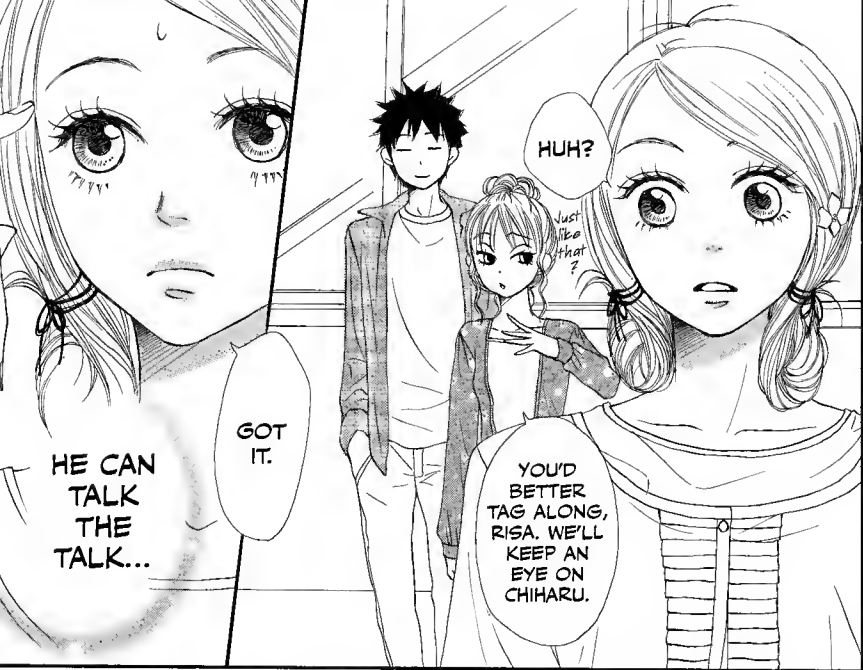
OTANI
...

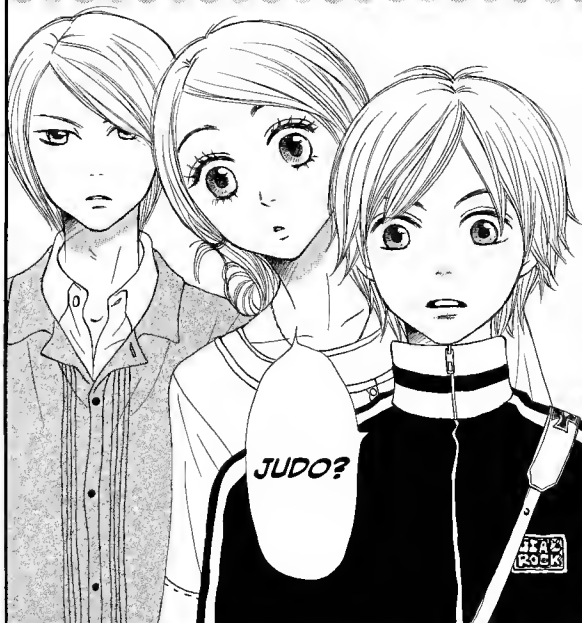
AFTER
CLASS,
LET'S
CONFRONT
HIM!!

I'M ON
YOUR
SIDE!!



MUSCLES
OVER
THERE
HAS
NOTHING
ON YOU.





JUDO?



HE
ALREADY
LEFT.

I THINK
HE'S AT
THE JUDO
CLUB
PRACTICE
HALL.



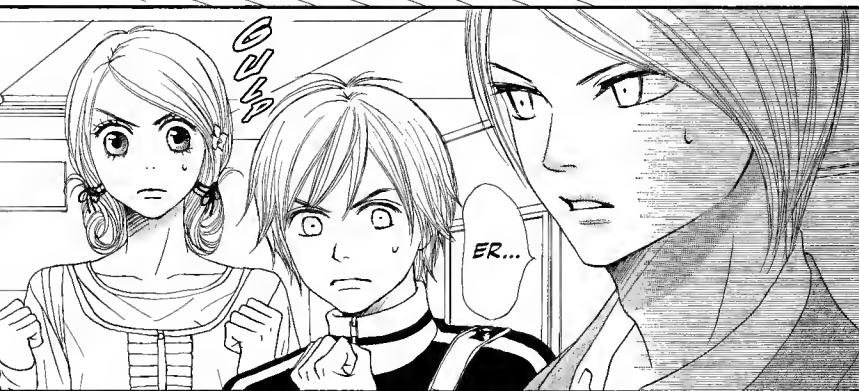
HI-YAH!!

GYAH!!

DON'T
RUN
FOR
IT!!

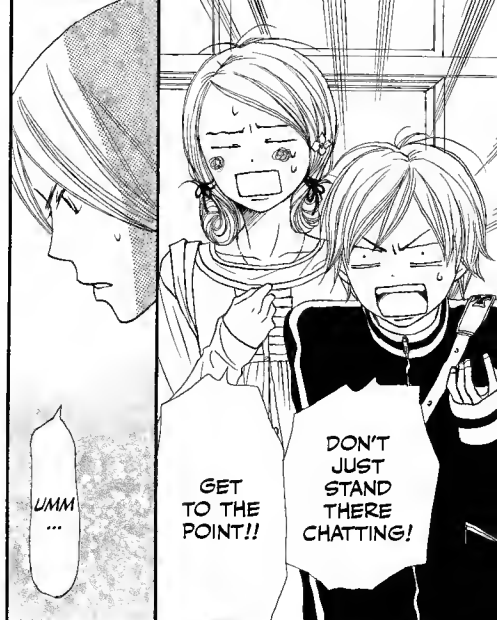


Ooh



I won't
give up
Tanaka-
san!

I...



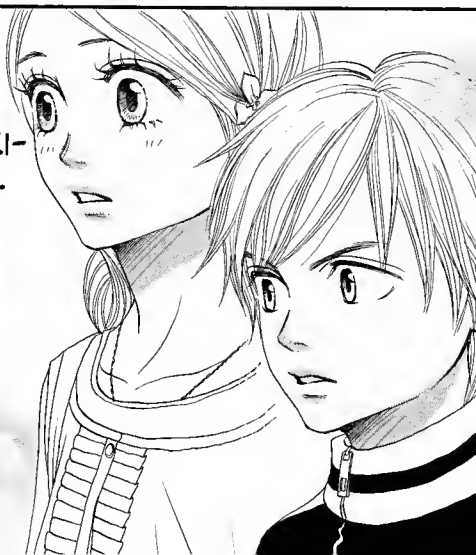
UMM
...

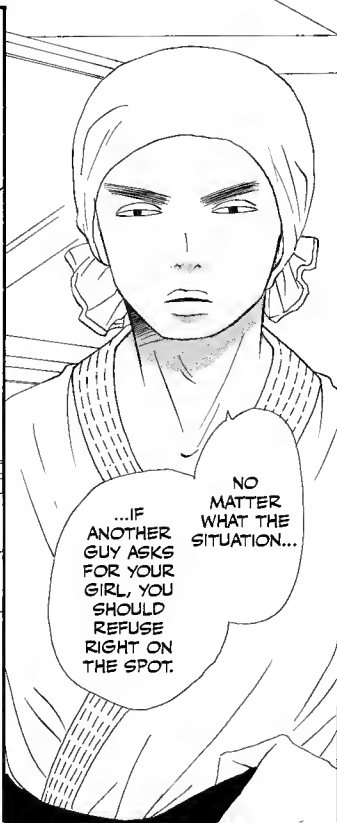
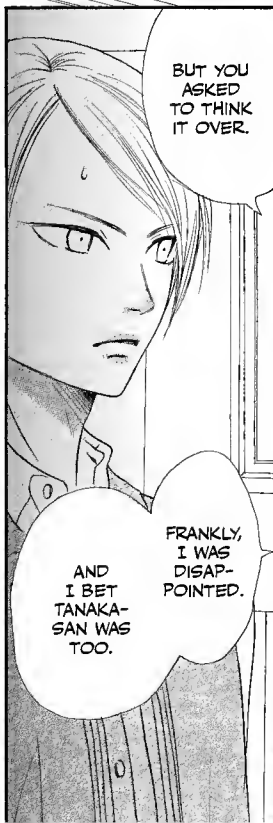
GET
TO THE
POINT!!

DON'T
JUST
STAND
THERE
CHATTING!



SUZUKI-
KUN...





YESTER-
DAY WAS
A TEST.

TO SEE
IF YOU
WERE
WORTHY
OF HER.

BUT YOU
ASKED
TO THINK
IT OVER.

FRANKLY,
I WAS
DISAP-
POINTED.

AND
I BET
TANAKA-
SAN WAS
TOO.

...IF
ANOTHER
GUY ASKS
FOR YOUR
GIRL, YOU
SHOULD
REFUSE
RIGHT ON
THE SPOT.

NO
MATTER
WHAT THE
SITUATION...

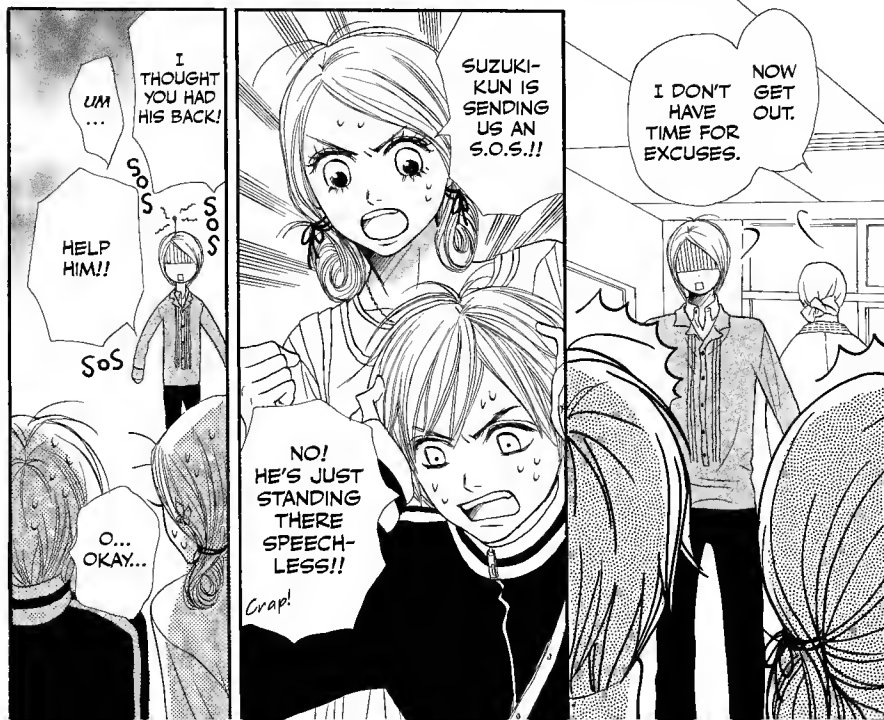


YEEK

I GOT
MY
ANSWER
JUST
NOW.

AS A MAN,
YOU'RE THE
LOWEST
OF THE
LOW.

I'M
GONNA
TAKE
TANAKA-
SAN, NO
QUESTIONS
ASKED.



UM
...

I
THOUGHT
YOU HAD
HIS BACK!

HELP
HIM!!

SOS
SOS
SOS
SOS
SOS

O...
OKAY...

SUZUKI-
KUN IS
SENDING
US AN
S.O.S.!!

NO!
HE'S JUST
STANDING
THERE
SPEECH-
LESS!!

Grap!

I DON'T
HAVE
TIME FOR
EXCUSES.

NOW
GET
OUT.









IF SUZUKI
WINS,
YOU HAVE
TO BACK
OFF AND
SHUT UP!!

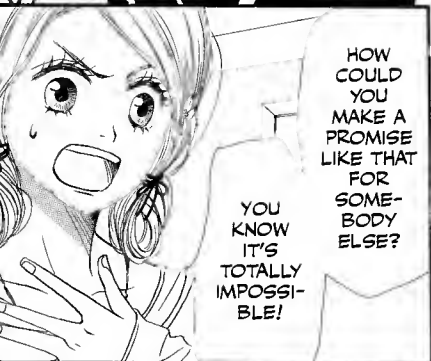


GOOD!!
LET'S
GO,
GUYS!!





OWW!



YOU
KNOW
IT'S
TOTALLY
IMPOSSI-
BLE!

HOW
COULD
YOU
MAKE A
PROMISE
LIKE THAT
FOR
SOME-
BODY
ELSE?



STILL...

ANYWAY,
DON'T
WRITE
HIM OFF
BEFORE
YOU SEE
HIM IN
ACTION!!
THAT'S
NOT
FAIR TO
SUZUKI!

WELL,
THAT
GUY
PISSED
ME
OFF!!



MUSCLES
AND
SUZUKI-
KUN?

IN A
JUDO
MATCH?

OH,
NO
WAY.

THIS
IS COM-
PLETELY
NUTS.





NO
WAY.



IF HE
TRAINS
ALL
WEEK,
MAYBE
HE CAN
WIN!!

RIGHT,
SUZUKI?



BUT
IT'S ALL
TRUE...

ALL
THE
MORE
REASON,
RIGHT?



AREN'T
YOU MAD
THAT HE
SAID THAT
STUFF?



SEE?

SH



IF YOU
BACK
OFF
AFTER
BEING
TOLD
YOU
SUCK...

...THEN
YOU
REALLY
DO!

IDIOT!!



ÔTANI...



CAN YOU LIVE WITH THAT, SUZUKI?



IF YOU WANNA LOOK AS GOOD AS ME, SUZUKI, YOU'VE GOTTA STAND UP AND FIGHT!



YOU BET I'M COOL!



YOU'RE SO COOL, ÔTANI!!



HE CAN'T HELP IT.



DON'T THINK ABOUT GETTING YOUR BUTT KICKED!!



IT'S TRUE.

I DON'T WANT SUZUKI TO GIVE UP WITHOUT A FIGHT.

IS THERE ANOTHER PLACE WITH TATAMI MATS?

WE PROBABLY CAN'T BORROW THE JUDO PRACTICE HALL.

WHERE?

...

IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE...

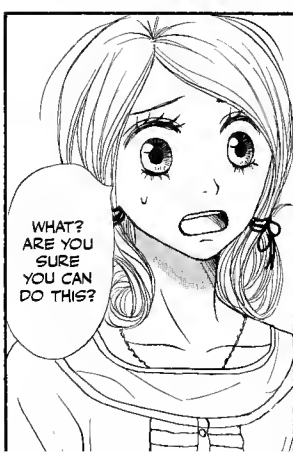
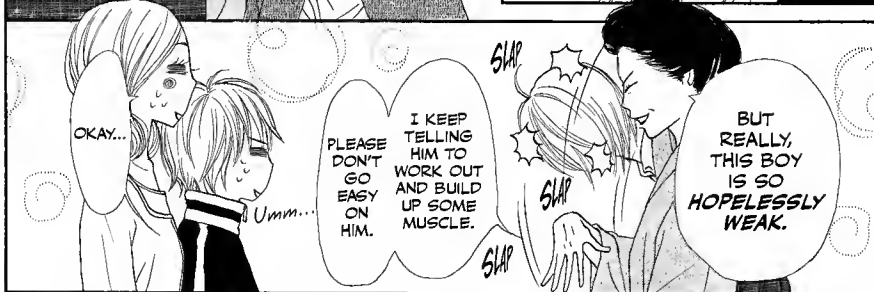
I WANT THOSE TWO TO STAY TOGETHER FOREVER.

MY SON? JUDO?

SCARY.

...BUT YOU HAVE MY SUPPORT TOO, SUZUKI-KUN!!

YES.





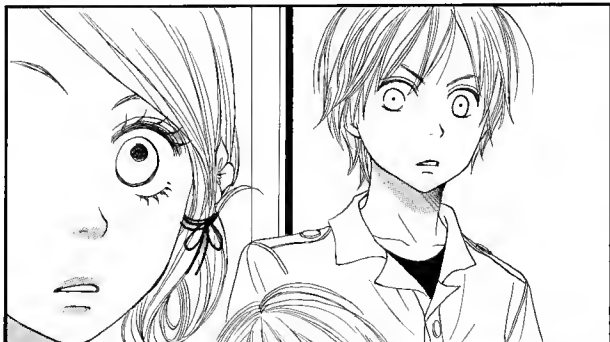
Hi! It's me, Nabahara.

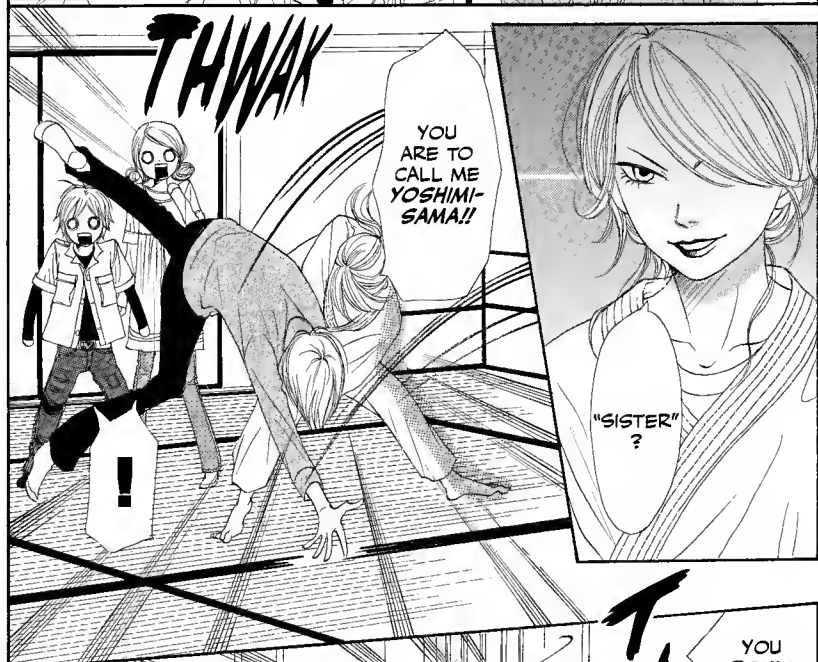
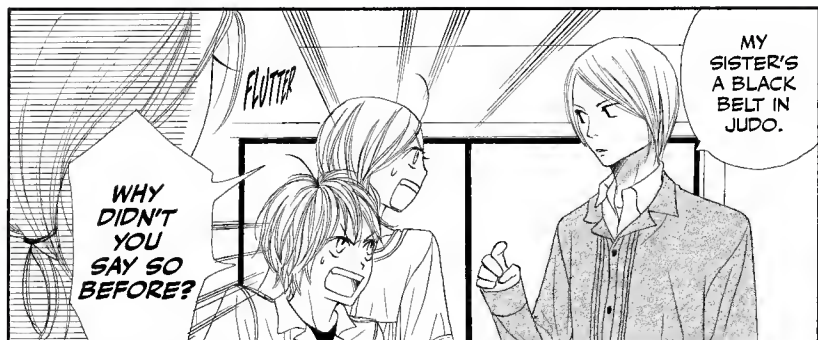
How are you doing?
Say...what volume is
this? Volume 13?
Wow, we've come a
long way, haven't we?
Really...Well, well,
well...okay, yes,
I'm stalling to fill
up space. Hee hee
hee...I'm sorry.
I do this every
volume, don't I?

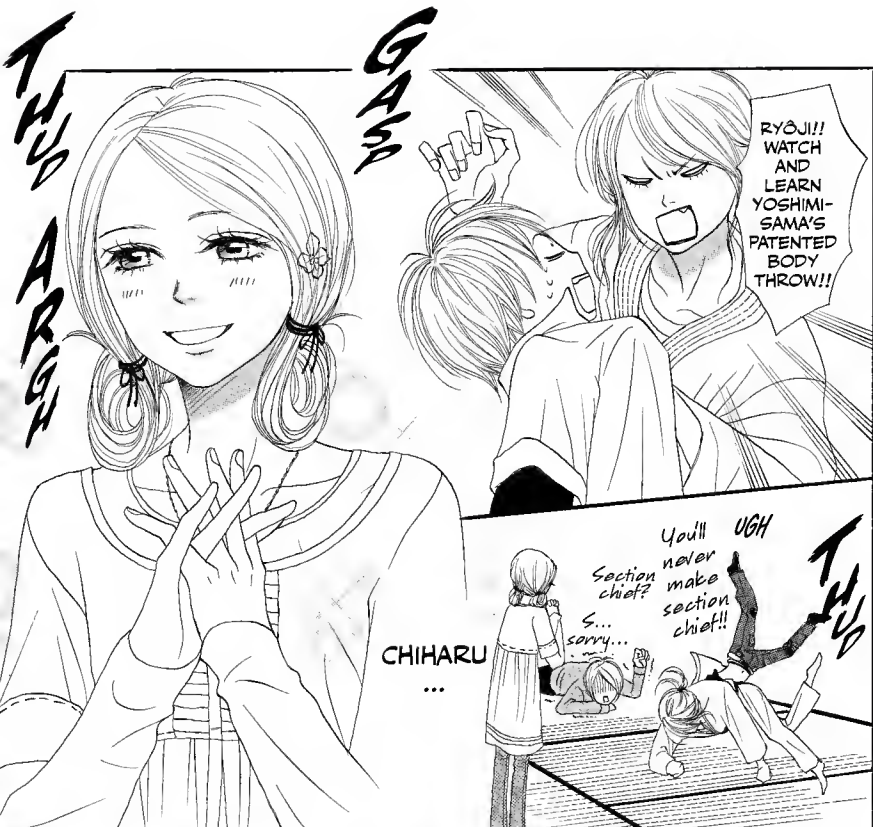
What can I talk
about? Oh, right!
The movie!
Love*Com is being
made into a live-
action movie. And I
understand some
great actors will
be starring in it.

Wow. That's really
something, isn't it?
Anyway, the plot of
the movie is...Oops,
I've run out of space.
See you later!

SLAM!







PLEASE...

PLEASE
FORGIVE
HIM.



SUZUKI-
KUN WENT
ALL OUT
FOR THIS.

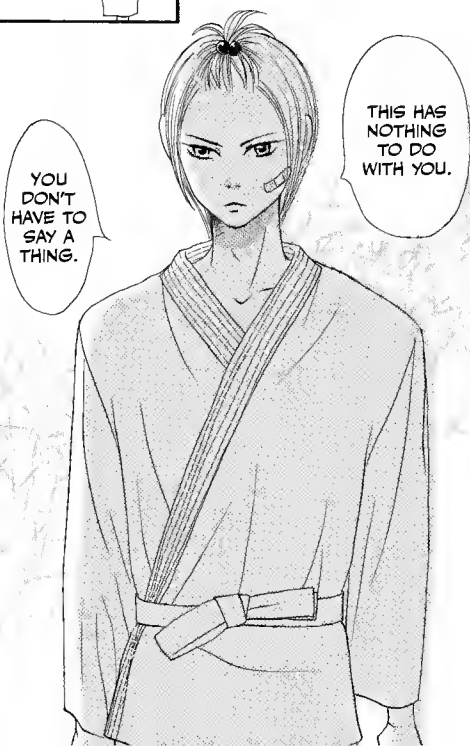
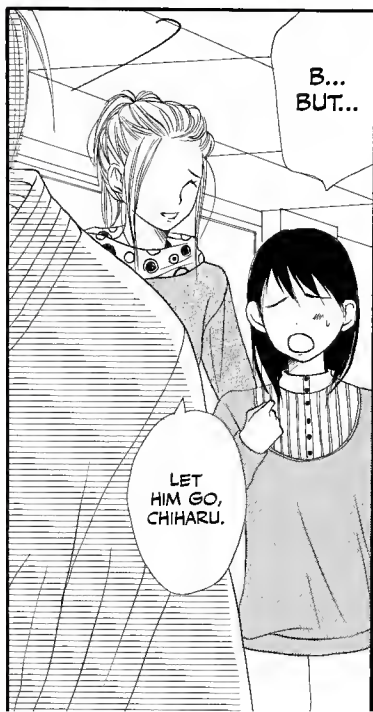
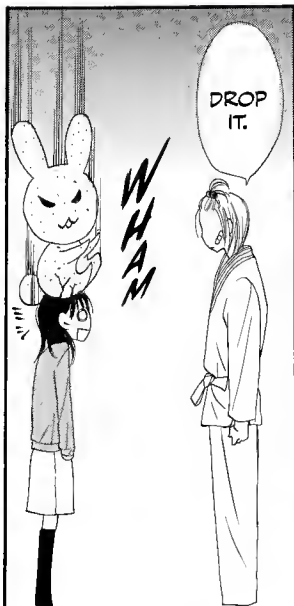
THEY'RE
ALREADY
TRAIN-
ING.
WANT
TO GO
SEE?

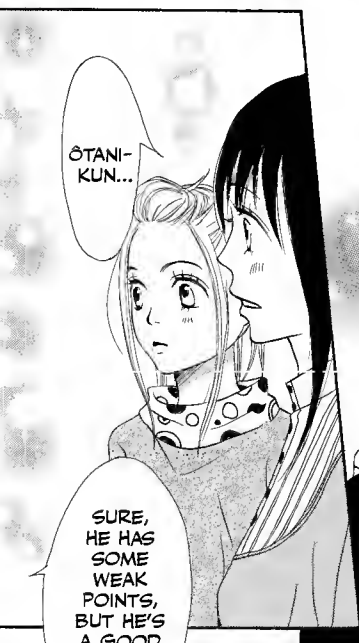
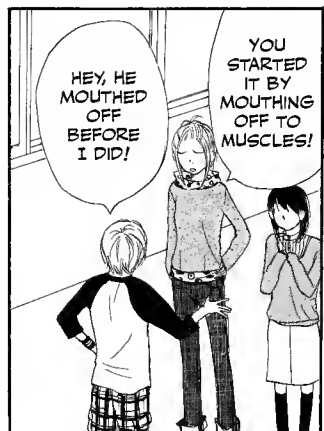
WHY?

WHY
DID HE
TAKE THE
CHAL-
LENGE?











RIGHT,
TANAKA-
SAN?



THIS
ISN'T
ABOUT...

...WINNING
OR
LOSING!!

I DON'T
CARE WHO
WINS OR
LOSES.

NO.



I'LL
GIVE
YOU
CREDIT
FOR
THAT.

YOU
CAME
KNOWING
YOU'LL
LOSE.



OVER

HUH?
IT'S
ALREADY
DONE?

PAF
YOU'RE
TOO LATE.

PAF

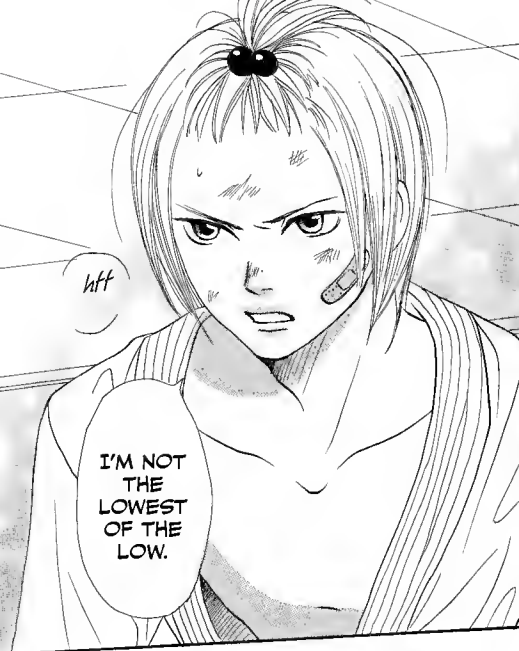
S...S...
SUZUKI-
KUN...

H...
HEY...

O...
ONE
MORE
TIME
...

WAIT!

IT'S
NOT
OVER
YET!!



I'M NOT
THE
LOWEST
OF THE
LOW.



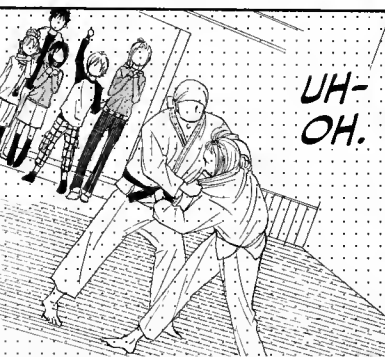
FINE
WITH
ME...

...BUT
YOU'LL
DIE.



HEY,
OTANI!

PLEASE
STOP,
SUZUKI-
KUN!
YOU'VE
DONE
ENOUGH!!



UH-
OH.



SUZUKI-
KUN...

ATTA
BOY,
SUZUKI
!!

BEAT
HIM
TO A
PULP!!



I'D
BETTER
DO
SOME-
THING.

ANY-
THING
...

IF THIS
KEEPS
UP,
SUZUKI
COULD
REALLY
GET
HURT.



HUH?

CHIHARU,
DO YOU
HAVE YOUR
GLASSES?

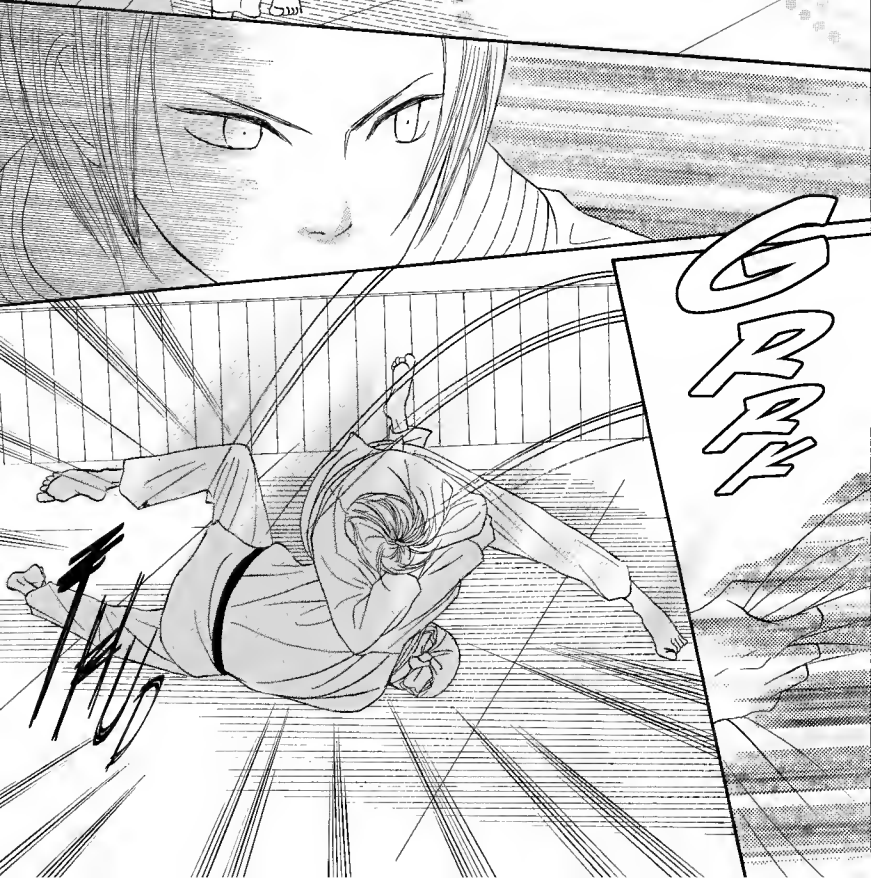
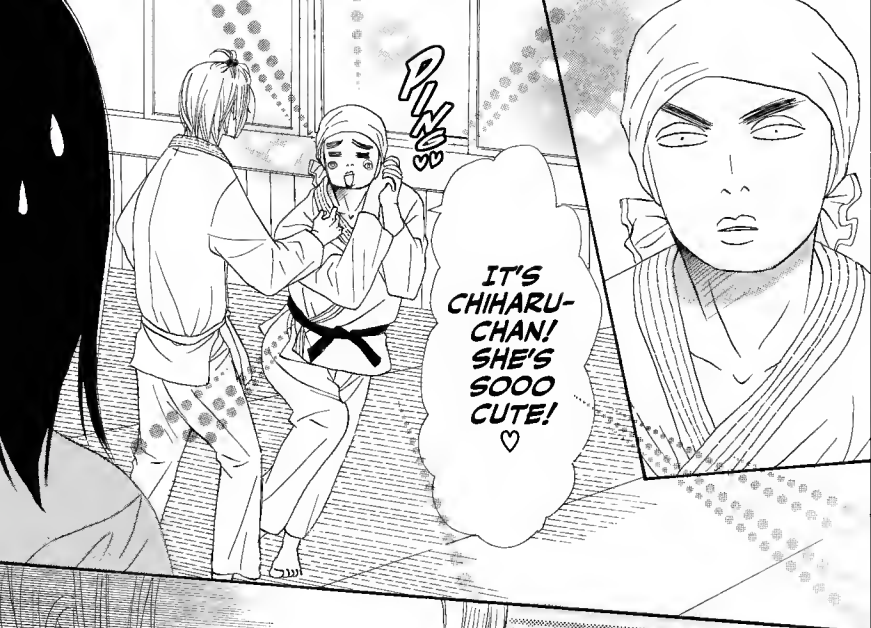
!

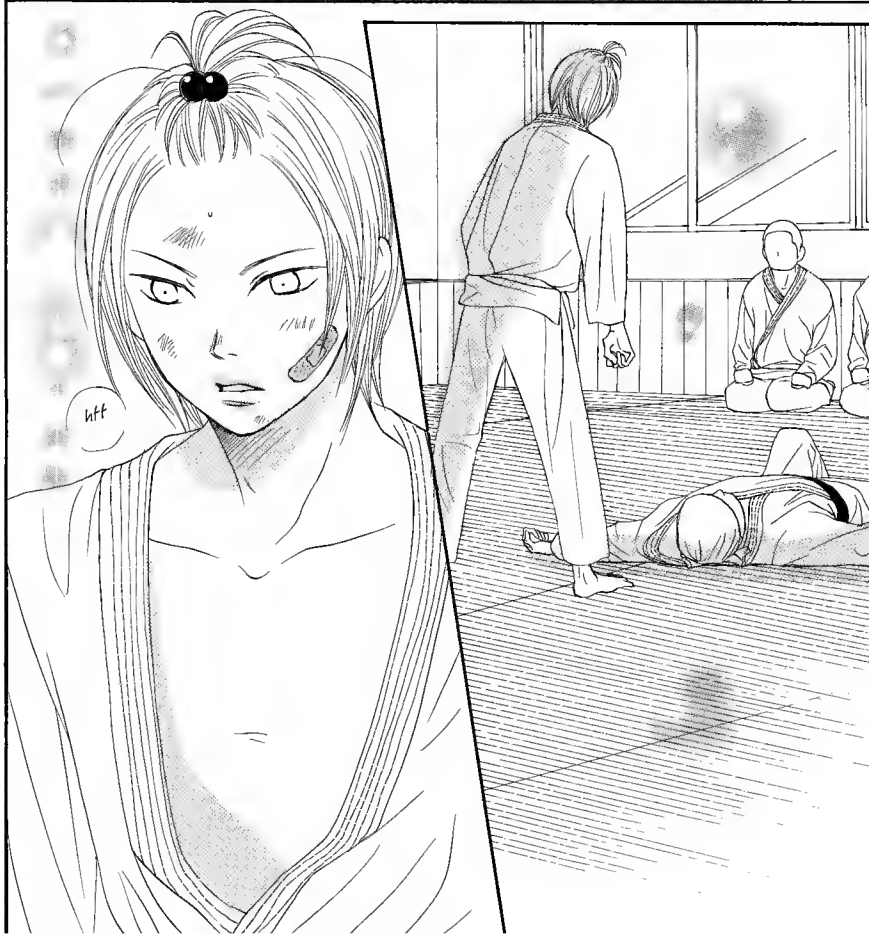
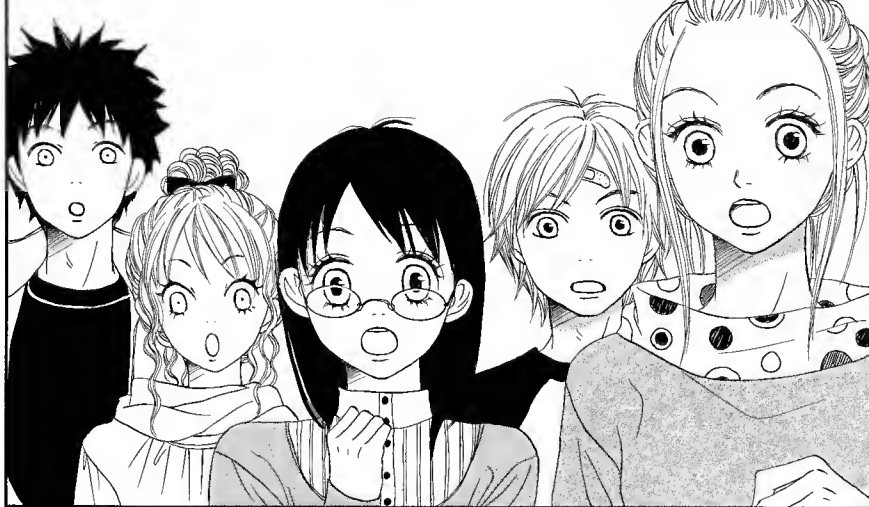


CHECK OUT
THE CUTE
GIRL WITH
GLASSES!!

HEY!!

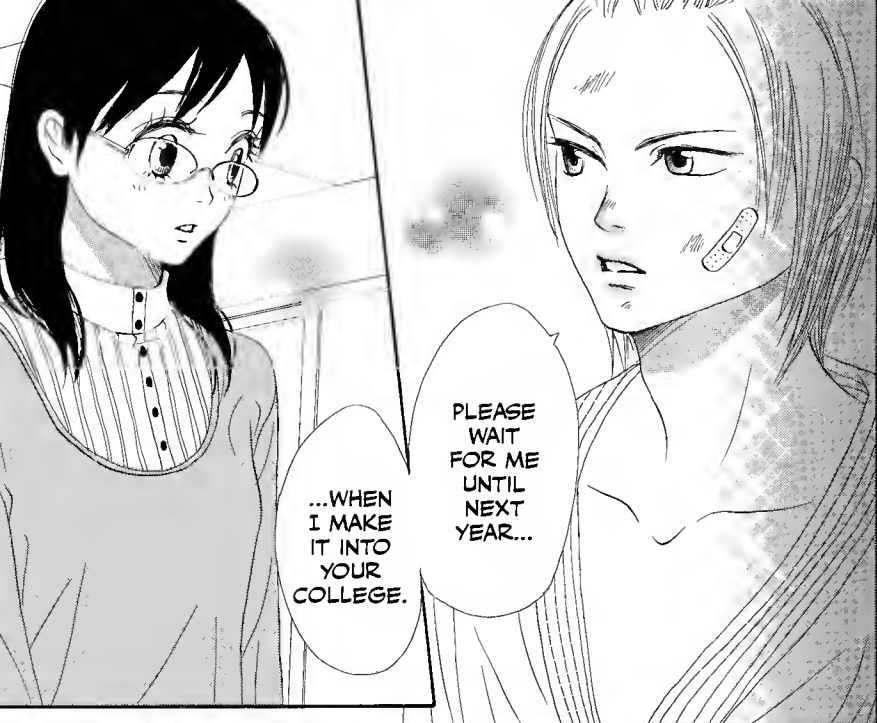


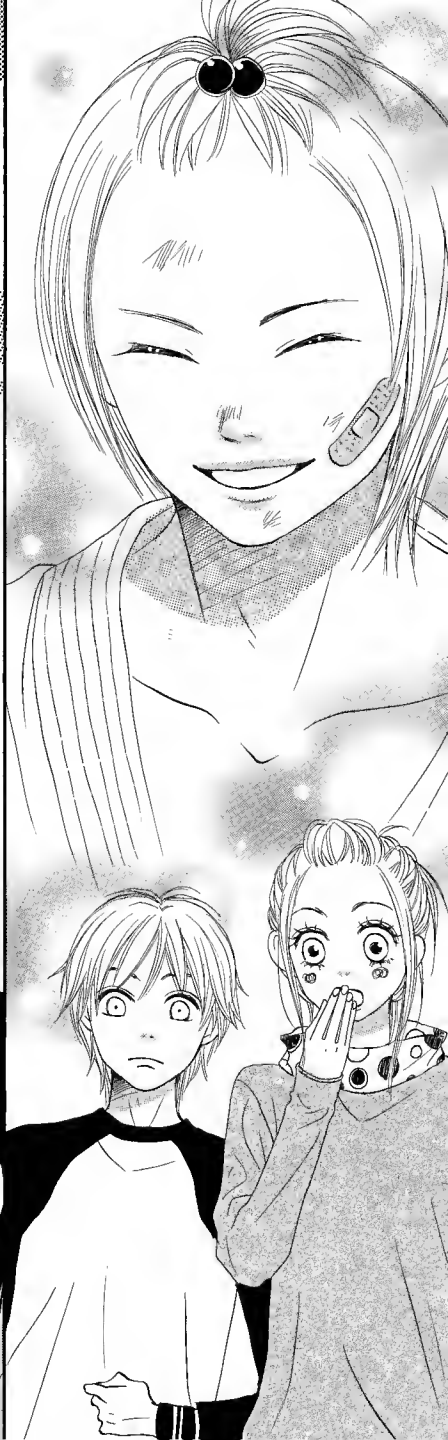
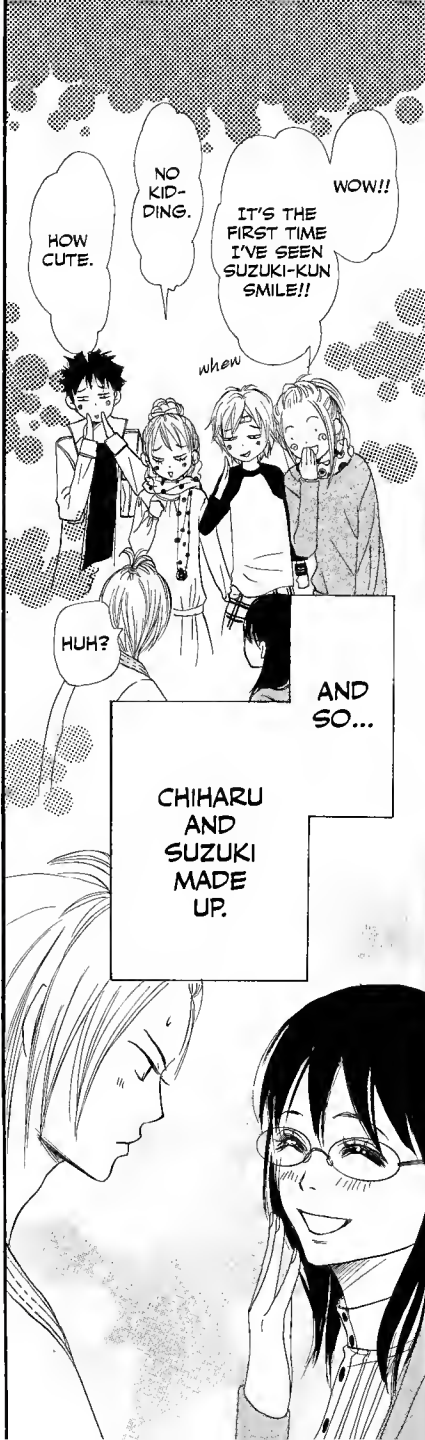


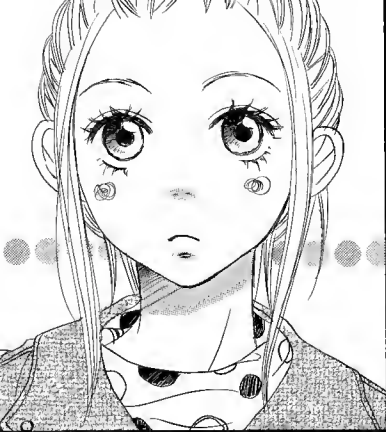






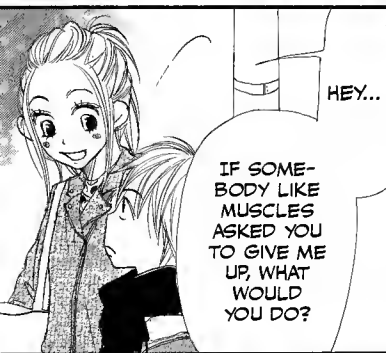






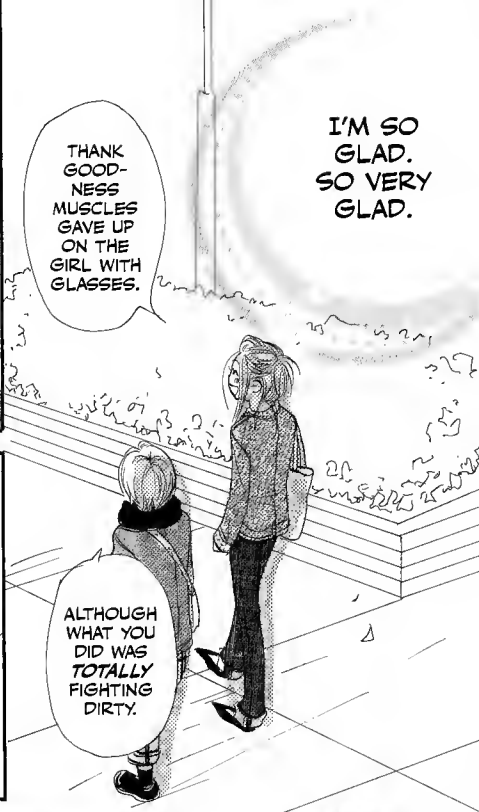
THANK
GOOD-
NESS
MUSCLES
GAVE UP
ON THE
GIRL WITH
GLASSES.

I'M SO
GLAD.
SO VERY
GLAD.



HEY...

IF SOME-
BODY LIKE
MUSCLES
ASKED YOU
TO GIVE ME
UP, WHAT
WOULD
YOU DO?



ALTHOUGH
WHAT YOU
DID WAS
TOTALLY
FIGHTING
DIRTY.



HOW
DARE
YOU?

I'D
BEG
HIM TO
TAKE
YOU.

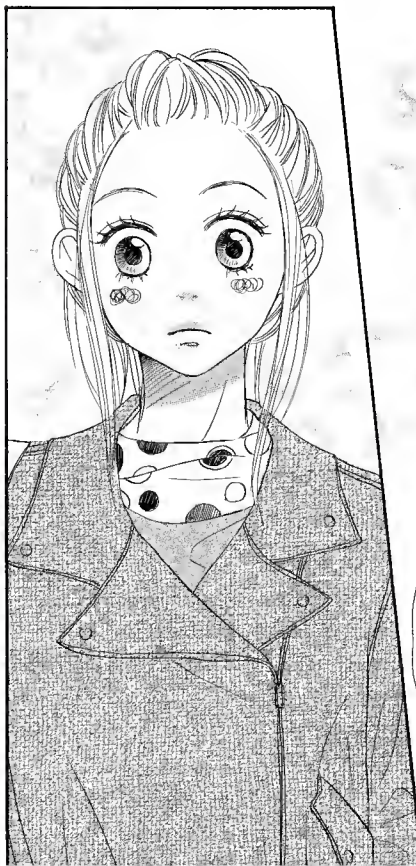
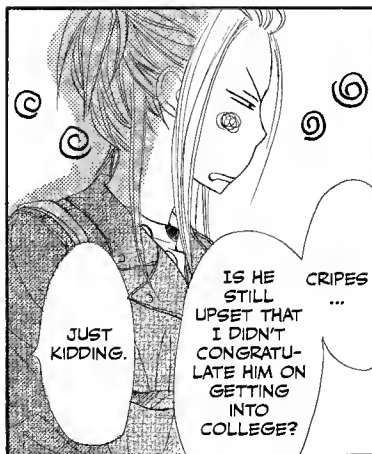
I'D
LIKE
TO
MEET
A GUY
LIKE
THAT.



A
REALLY
STRONG
GUY?

NOT
THAT IT
MATTERS...

BUT WOULD
YOU FIGHT
FOR ME LIKE
SUZUKI-KUN?





...YOU'D
BETTER
BELIEVE
I'D KICK
HER BUTT.

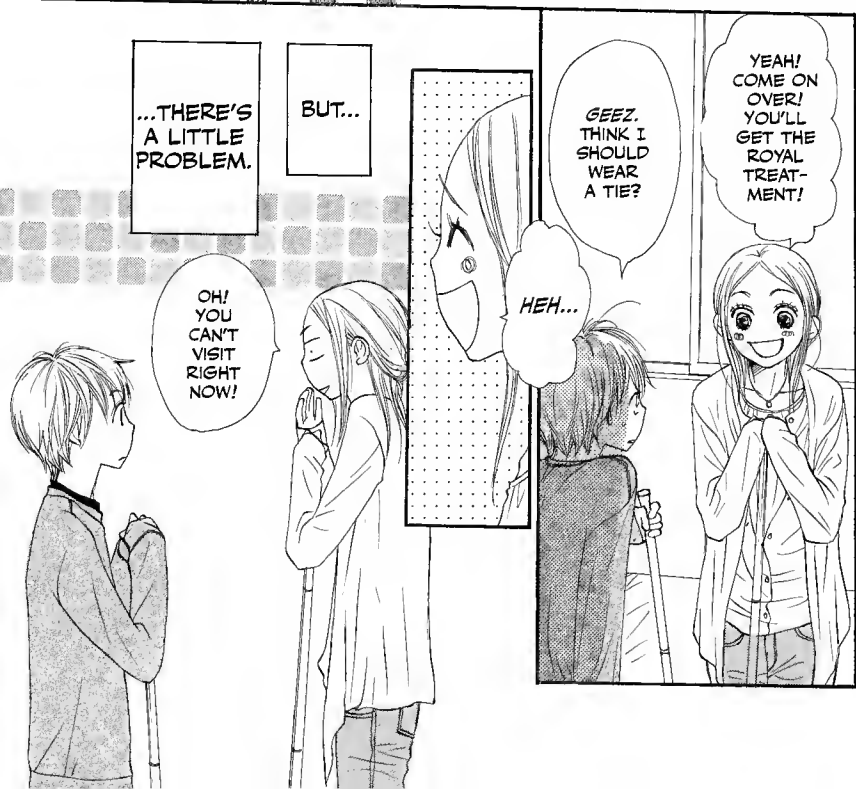
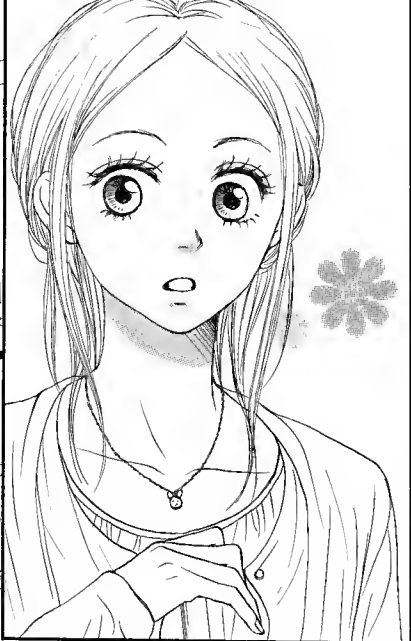
IF SOME-
BODY CAME
ALONG
RIGHT NOW
TO TAKE
ÔTANI AWAY...



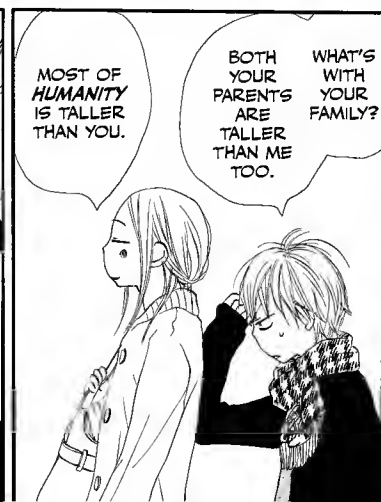


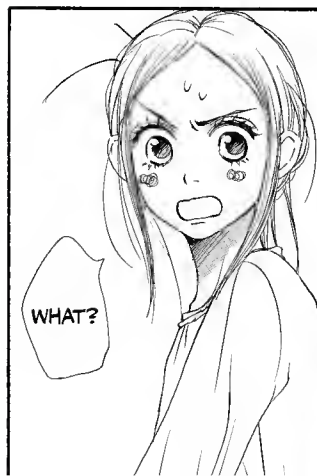
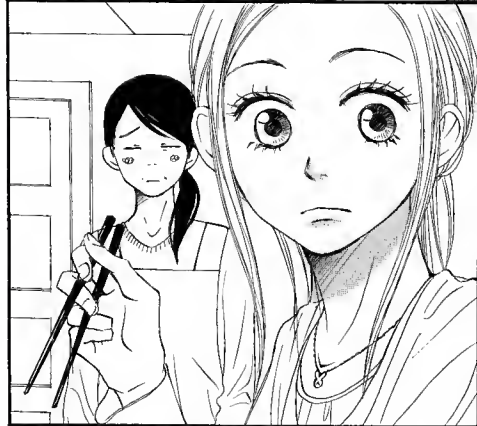
CHAPTER 49













I KNOW!
STOP BY
TOMORROW
AFTER
SCHOOL!

I'LL
SHOW
YOU
AROUND!



IT'S
NOT
LIKE
THAT!

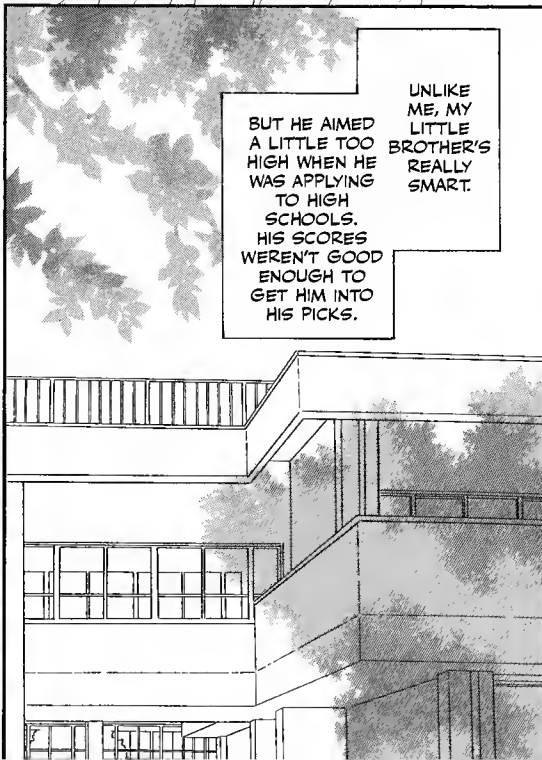
THERE
ARE
KIDS
THERE
WHO
STUDY
REALLY
HARD!

REMEMBER
CHIHARU?
SHE CAME
OVER
TO OUR
HOUSE
ONE TIME...



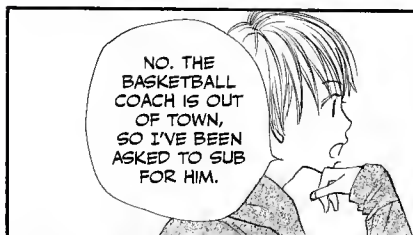
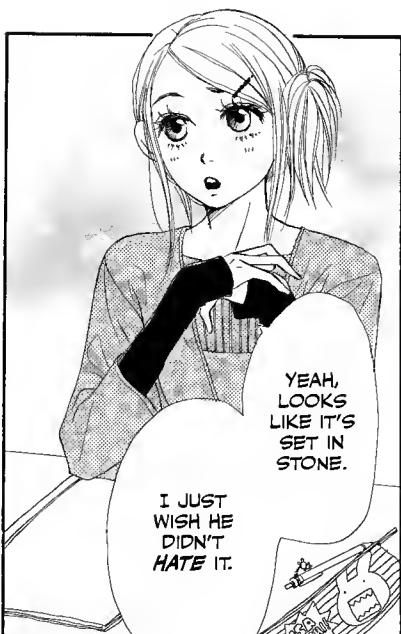
OH!
TAKATO-
KUN IS
ENROLLING
IN OUR
SCHOOL?

IF HE'D
STARTED
A YEAR
EARLIER, WE
COULD'VE
ALL HUNG
OUT
TOGETHER.



BUT HE AIMED
A LITTLE TOO
HIGH WHEN HE
WAS APPLYING
TO HIGH
SCHOOLS.
HIS SCORES
WEREN'T GOOD
ENOUGH TO
GET HIM INTO
HIS PICKS.

UNLIKE
ME, MY
LITTLE
BROTHER'S
REALLY
SMART.



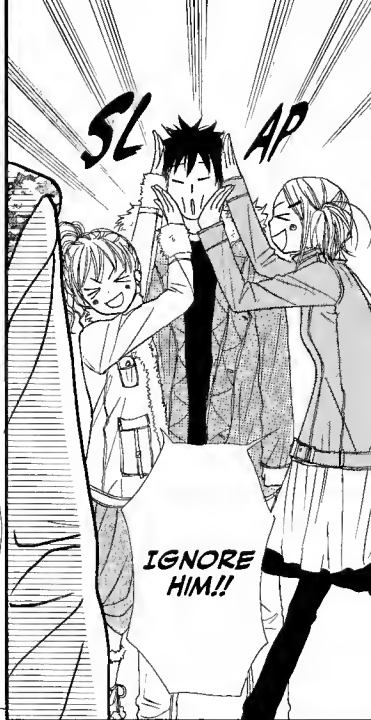
8 ②

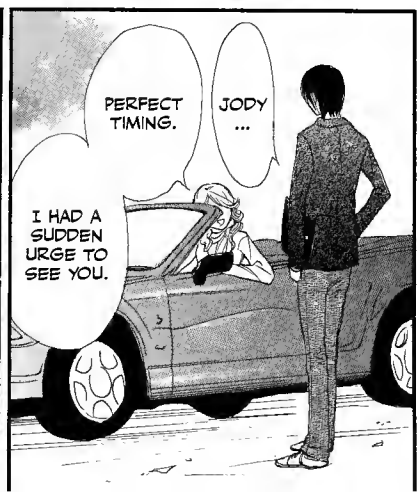
Ha ha ha...
I've forgotten
what I was going
to write about.
Hm? The movie?
Oh, right, the
movie. For a year,
I've heard
rumblings: "Yes,
we're doing a
movie," then,
"Maybe we won't."
I tend to be
negative, so I
thought they'd
never do it. But
then I started
to get hopeful.
I'm so happy now.
Really. But the
whole experience
has broadened my
perspective. If I
were to illustrate
it with a rabbit...

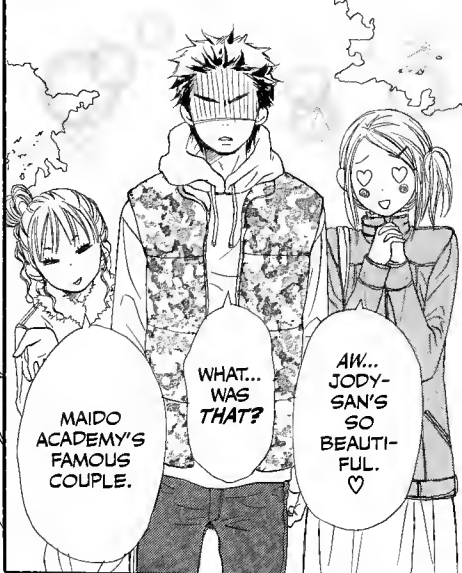


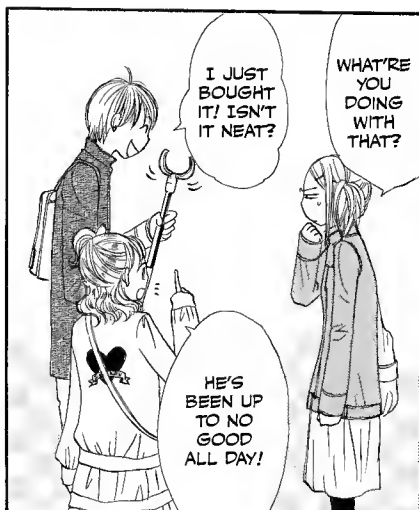
It feels just like
that. Isn't the
butterfly cute?
Isn't it?





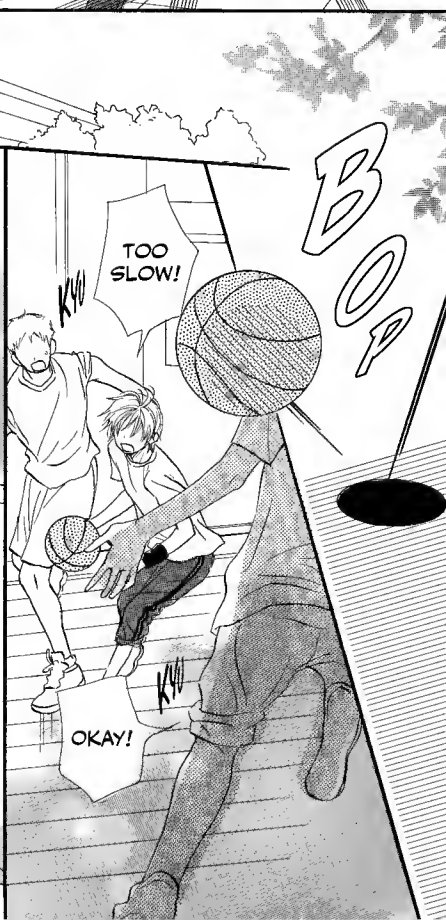
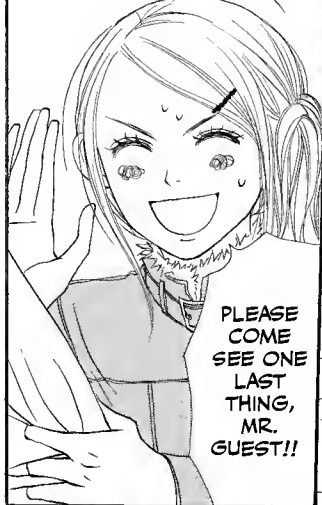


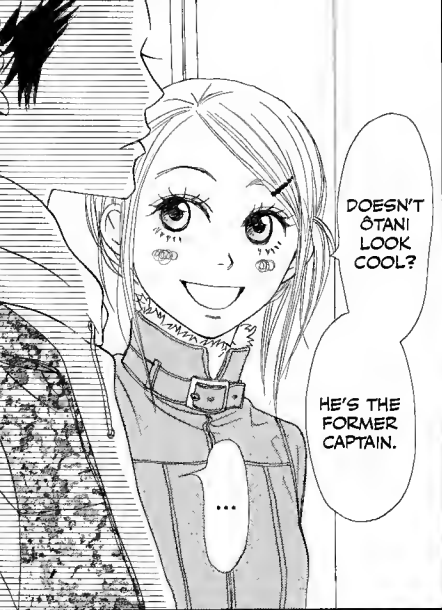














BOI

NG

**YOU
SHOULD
BREAK UP
WITH MY
STUPID
SISTER
NOW!**



HEY,
YOUR KID
BROTHER'S
HERE!

TAF



WHATEVER
WEIRD, FLEETING
CRUSH YOU HAVE
ON MY SISTER,
IT'LL ONLY DRAG
YOU DOWN TO
HER LEVEL!!

REALLY?

YES!!



YOU'RE
THE ONLY
NORMAL
ONE HERE!
DON'T LET
THEM GET
TO YOU!!

YOU'RE
A COOL
GUY!!

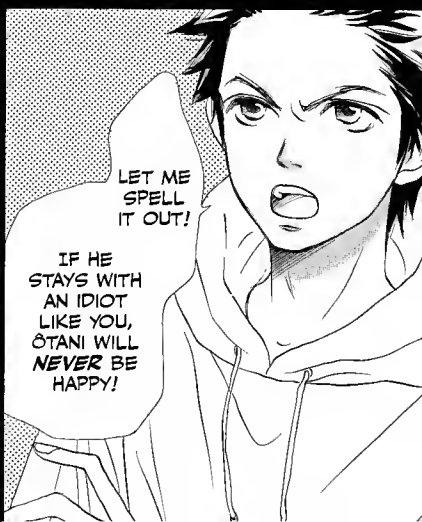
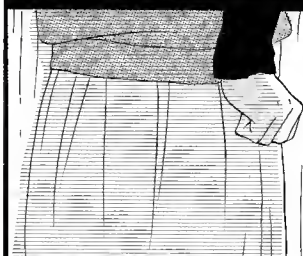
HUH?

HEY,
WHAT
THE
...?



HUH?

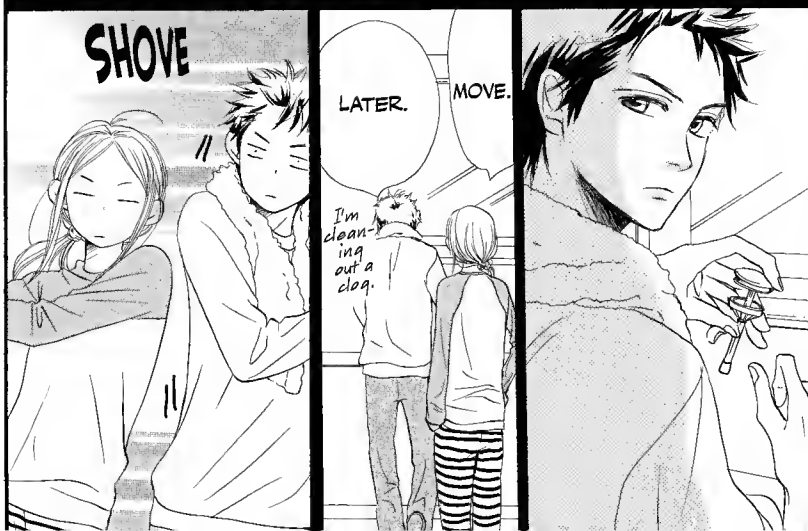
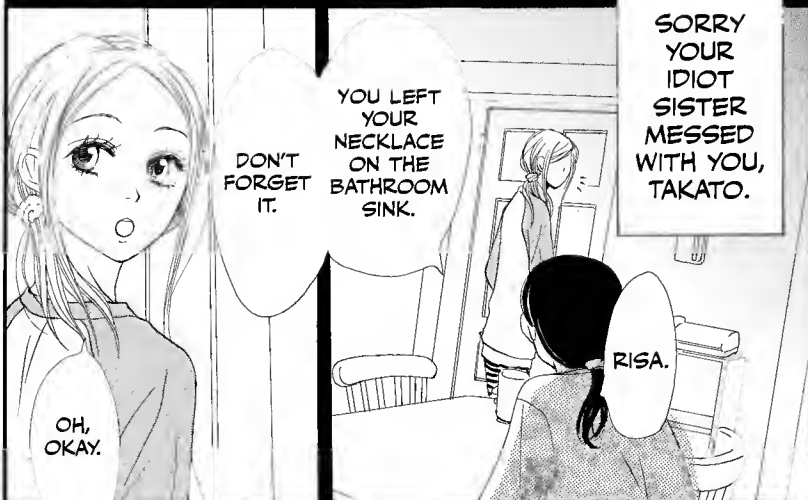








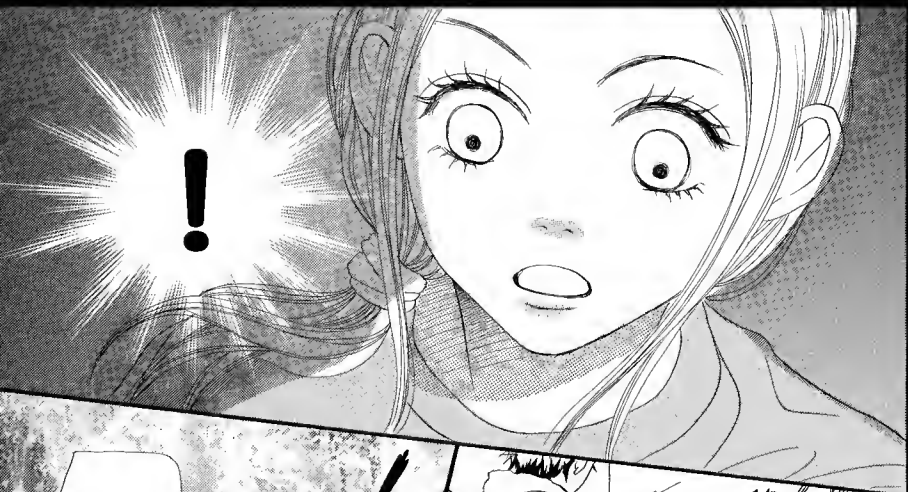




KASHINK



HEY!



OH!

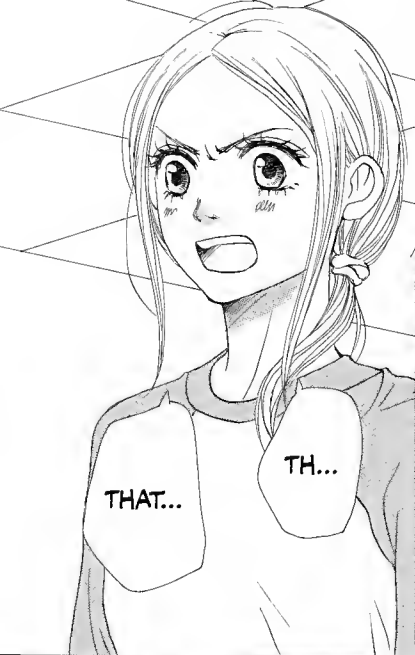
Bye-bye.



NO!
STO...

SHIP





THAT...

TH...



HOW'D
WE
GET
THIS
WAY?

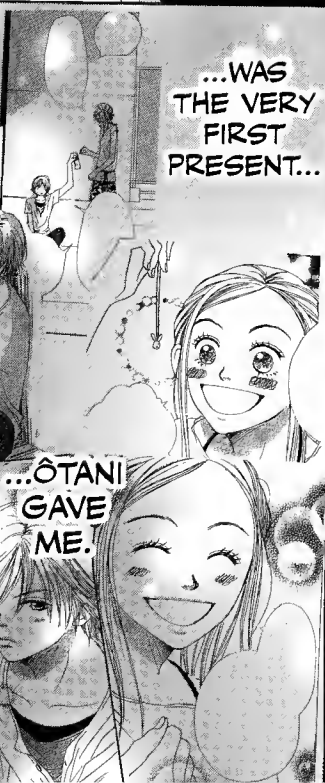
DO?

OKAY!!
WHAT'RE
YOU
GONNA
DO
ABOUT
IT?



SIS?

SHOOF

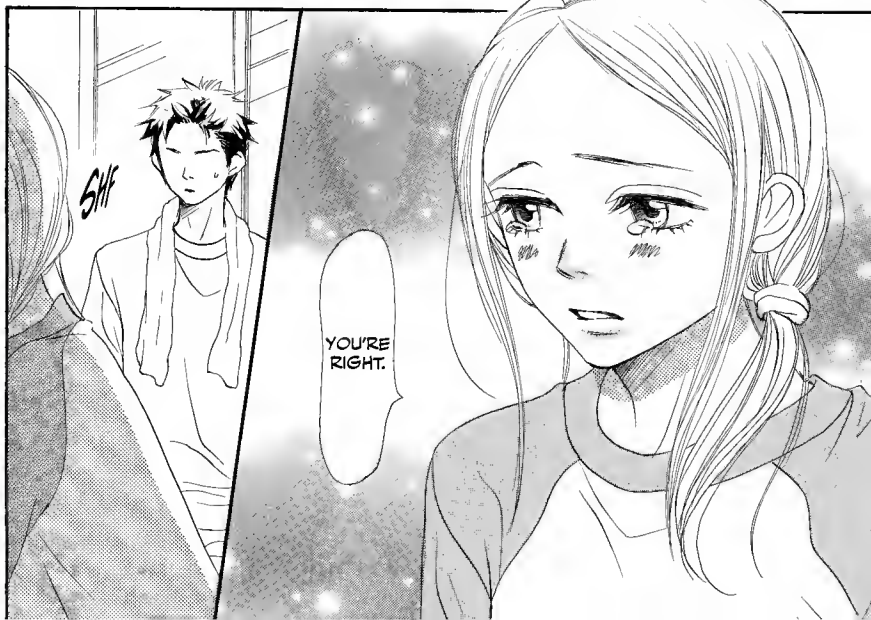
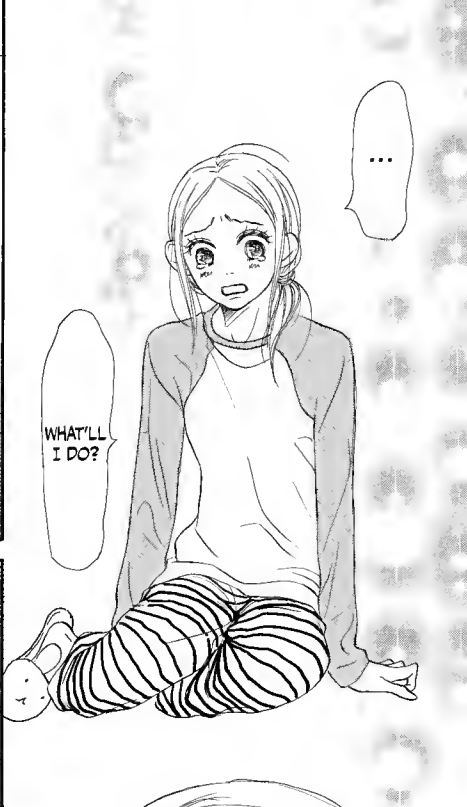
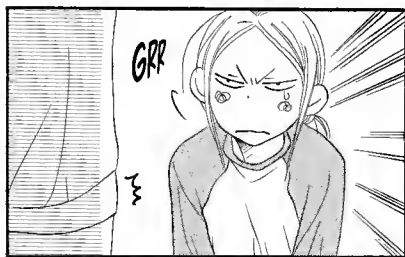


...WAS
THE VERY
FIRST
PRESENT...

...ÔTANI
GAVE
ME.



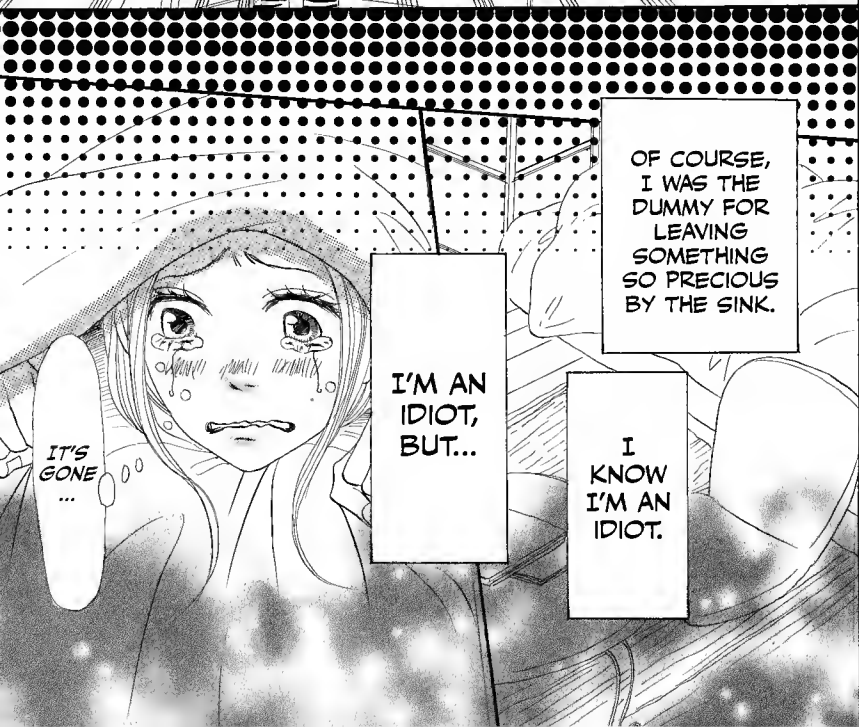
THAT
...





**CAN IT,
DUMMY!!**

SIS...?



IT'S
GONE
...

I'M AN
IDIOT,
BUT...

OF COURSE,
I WAS THE
DUMMY FOR
LEAVING
SOMETHING
SO PRECIOUS
BY THE SINK.

I
KNOW
I'M AN
IDIOT.

WHAT'LL
I DO?

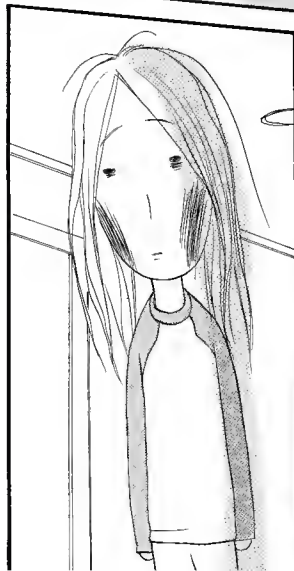
WHAT IF HE
DECIDES
HE DOESN'T
NEED A
STUPID
GIRLFRIEND
LIKE ME?

I'M START-
ING TO
WONDER IF
GOING OUT
WITH YOU
IS A WISE
MOVE.



WHAT'LL
I TELL
ÔTANI?

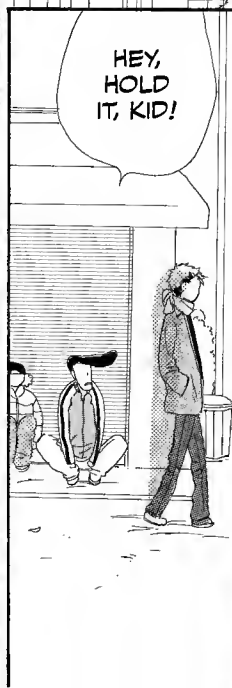
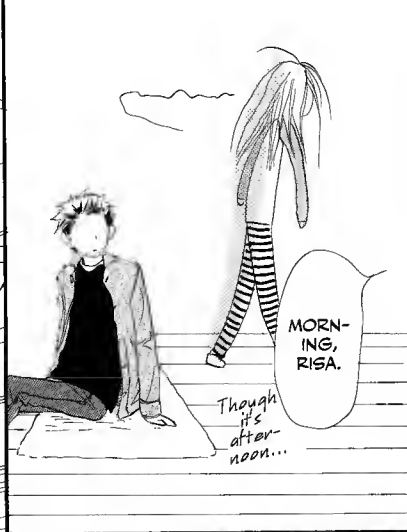
IF HE STAYS
WITH AN
IDIOT LIKE
YOU, ÔTANI
WILL NEVER
BE HAPPY!



I
SEE.

WHERE
ARE
YOU
GOING?

TO
SEE A
FRIEND.

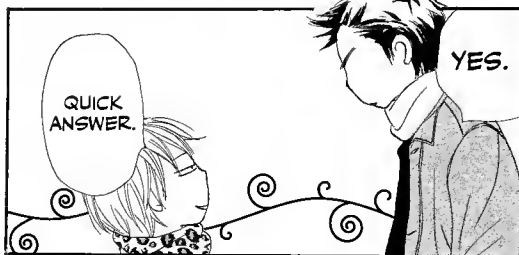


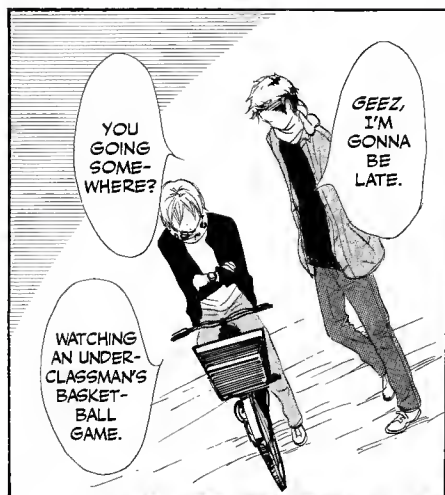


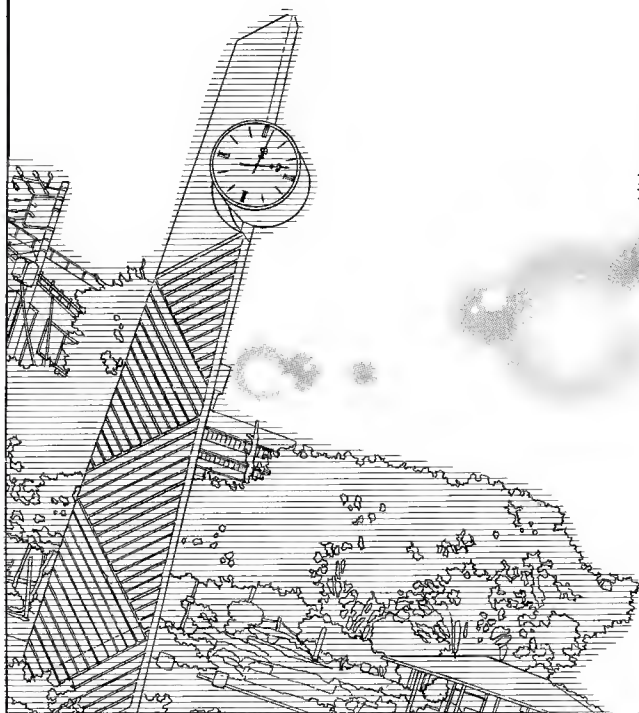












I HAVE
A FAVOR
TO ASK...

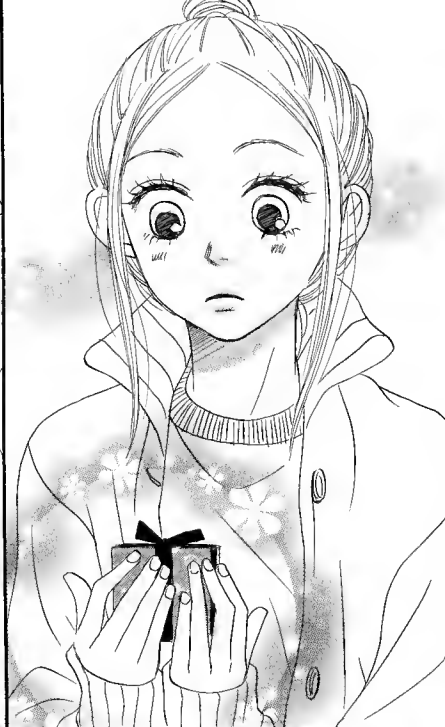


JUST
SIT.

WHY'D
YOU
WANT
TO SEE
ME?

POK







THAT
KID...

I'M...
I'M
SORRY,
OTANI.



HE SAID
YOU WERE
FEELING
DEPRESSED,
SO I SHOULD
GIVE YOU
ANOTHER
PRESENT.

YOUR
BROTHER
TOLD ME.



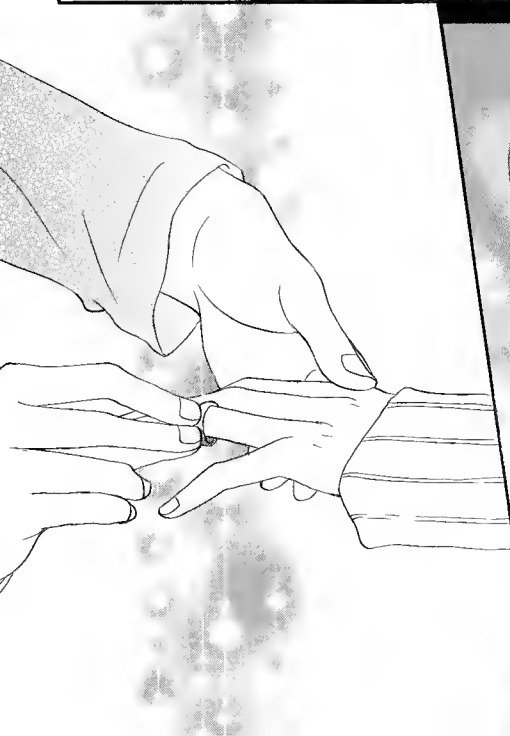
NOT
"SORRY."
YOUR
LINE IS
"THANK
YOU."

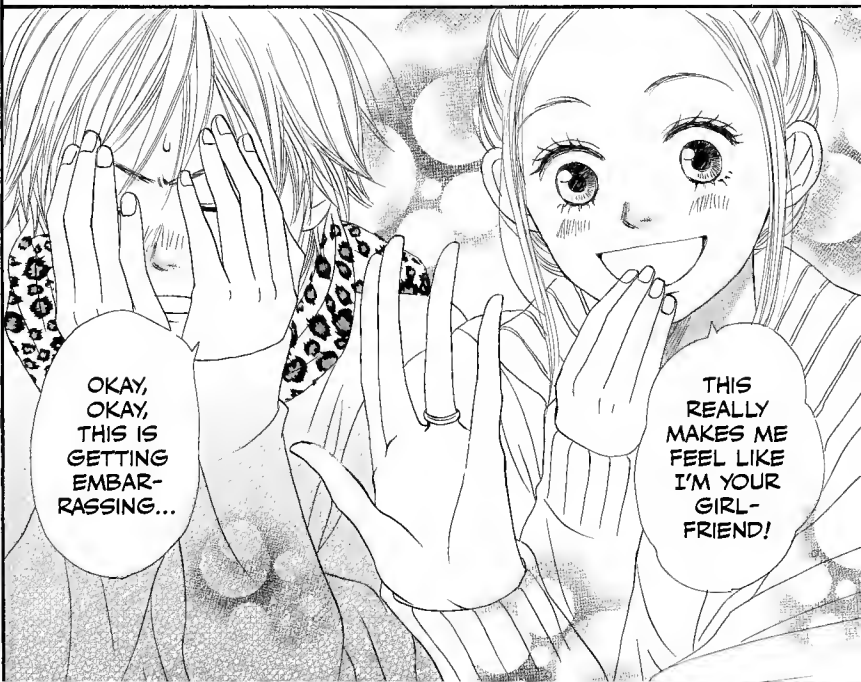
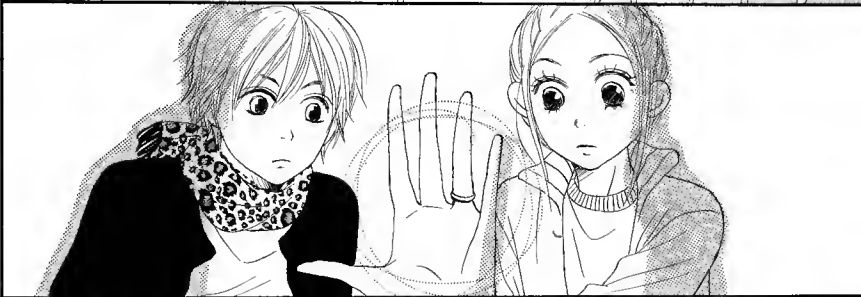
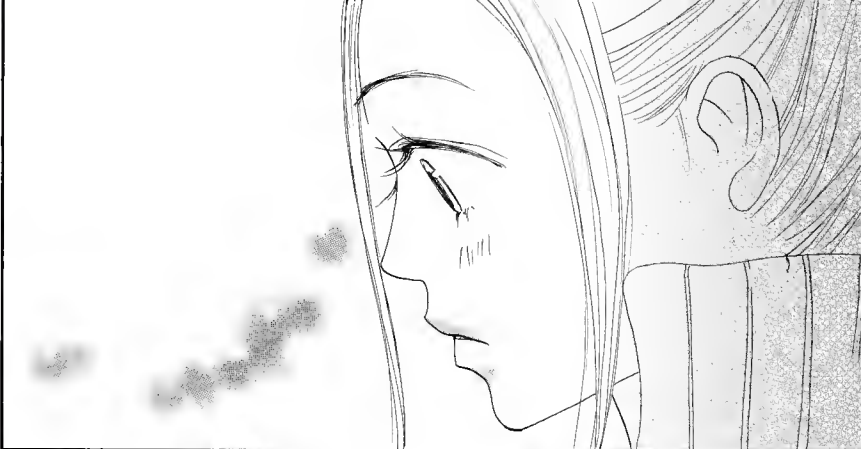


YEAH.



THANK
YOU.





...I
FORGOT
EVERY-
THING
ELSE.



AT THAT
MOMENT,
I WAS
SO
HAPPY...

ONE DAY
YOU'LL
FALL
STRAIGHT
INTO
HELL!



PERHAPS
MY
BROTHER...

...HAD A
PREMONI-
TION OF
US IN THE
DAYS TO
COME.

BY AIR MAIL







...ÔTANI IS
COMING
OVER
TO MY
HOUSE.

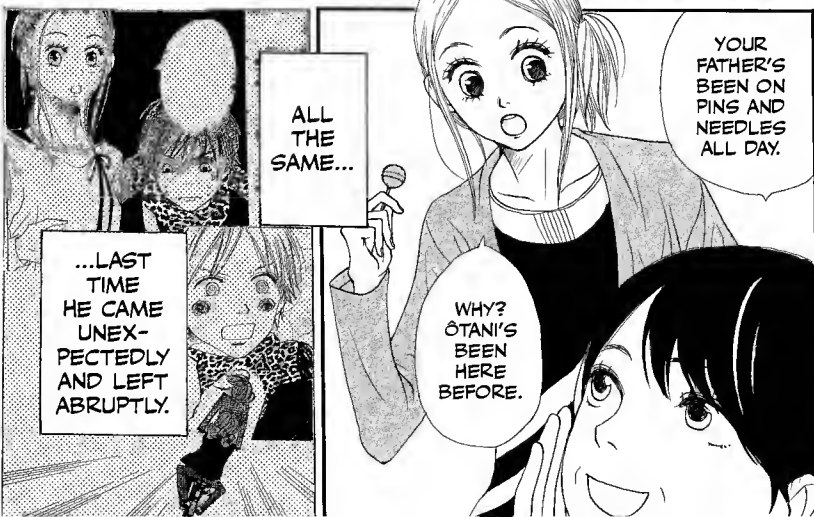


TODAY...

NOT
YET?

CHAPTER 50



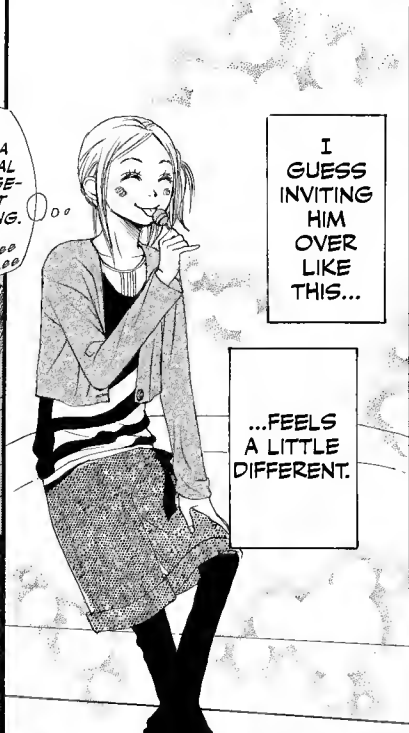




I'M
LEAVING!!

LIKE A
FORMAL
ENGAGE-
MENT
MEETING.

hee
hee



I
GUESS
INVITING
HIM
OVER
LIKE
THIS...

...FEELS
A LITTLE
DIFFERENT.



KIMCHI?

YOU
DIDN'T
GIVE ME
TIME TO
PREPARE A
PROPER
GIFT.



PHEW!
THAT
SMELL!
WHAT
IS IT?

OH,
AND
TAKE
THIS.

KIMCHI.



HOLD IT!
IF YOU'RE
GOING
TO YOUR
GIRLFRIEND'S
HOUSE,
COMB YOUR
HAIR A BIT!

DON'T
TOUCH
IT. IT
LOOKS
FINE!!



NO
THANKS.

I BOUGHT
A LOT, SO
TAKE SOME
TO THE
KOIZUMIS.

I GOT
THIS AT
TSURUHASHI.
IT'S
DELICIOUS...
REAL
HOMEMADE
KIMCHI.



IT'S
BETTER
THAN
GOING
EMPTY-
HANDED.

NO
THANKS!
WHY
WOULD I
BRING
KIMCHI?



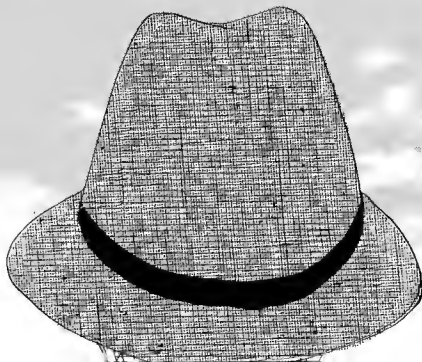
JUST
TAKE
IT!!

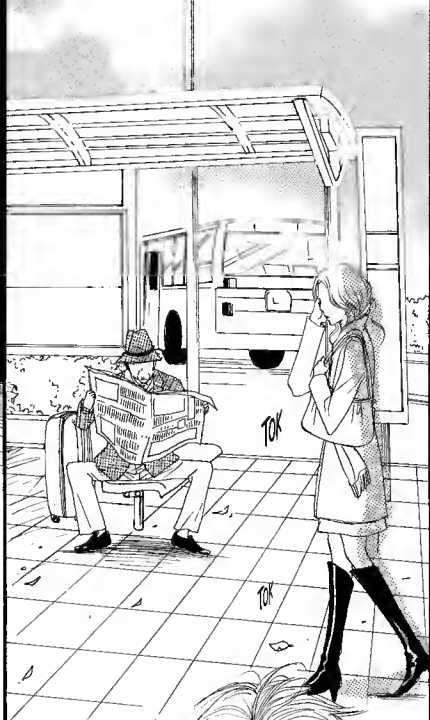
tweet

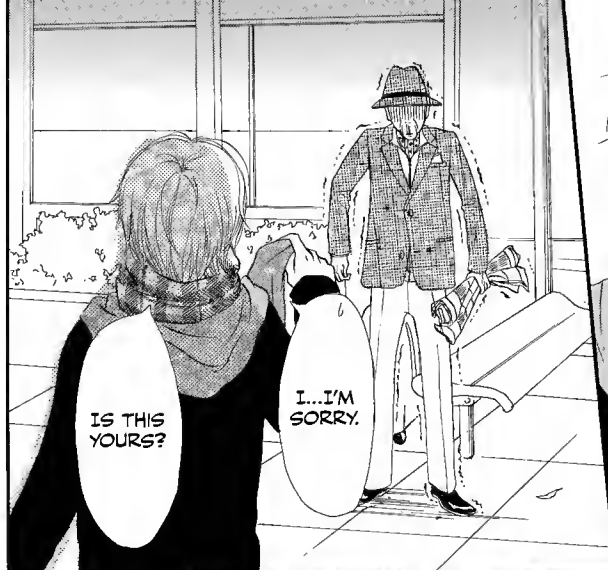
chirp chirp

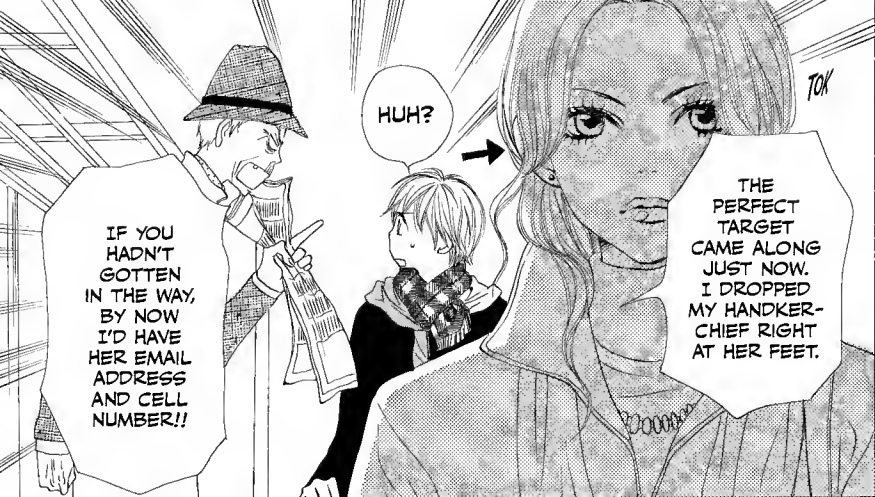
ÔTANI'S
LATE.

I
WONDER
WHAT'S
KEEPING
HIM?











MY
EMAIL?
SURE.

ha
ha

WILL YOU
GIVE ME
YOUR EMAIL
ADDRESS
SO I CAN
THANK YOU
LATER?

What a
funny
old man.

THAT OLD
GEEZER...

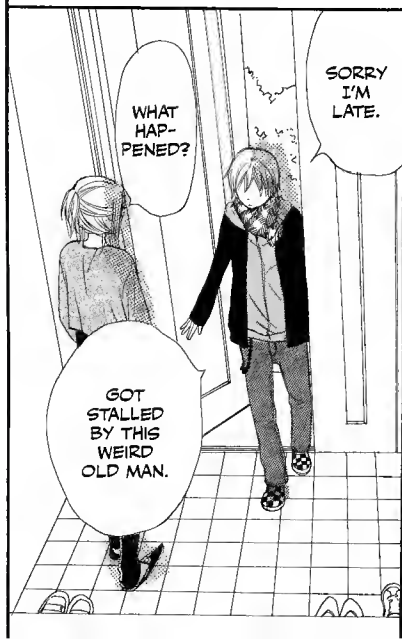


OH,
THANK
YOU,
YOUNG
LADY.

EXCUSE
ME. YOU
DROPPED
THIS.



DING
DONG



WHAT
HAP-
PENED?

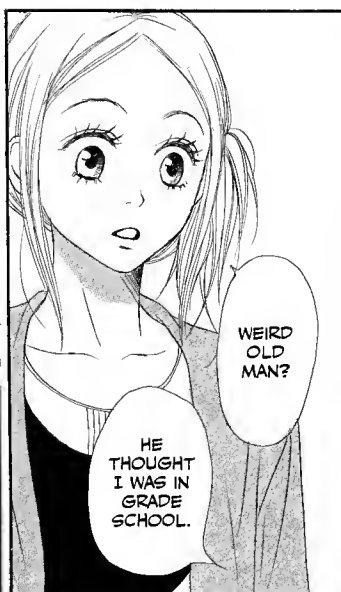
SORRY
I'M
LATE.

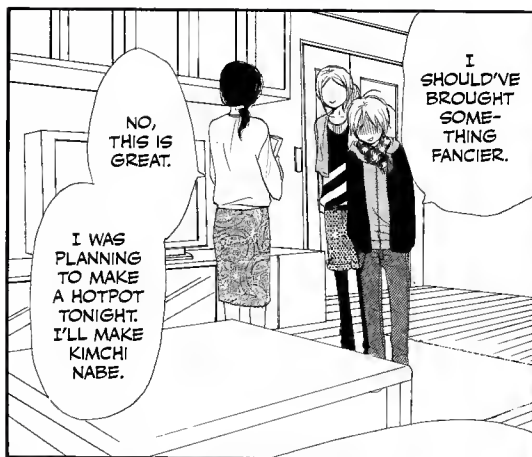
GOT
STALLED
BY THIS
WEIRD
OLD MAN.



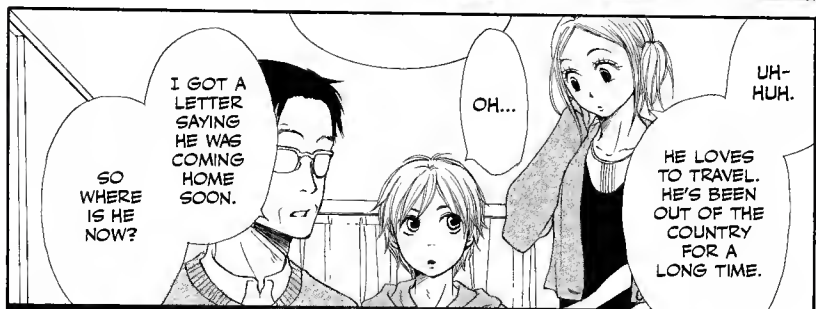
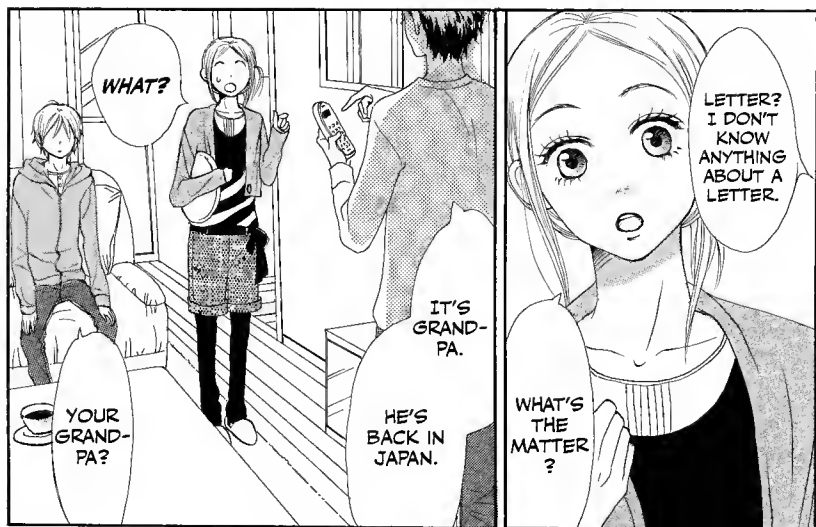
HE'S
HERE.
♡

WELCOME!









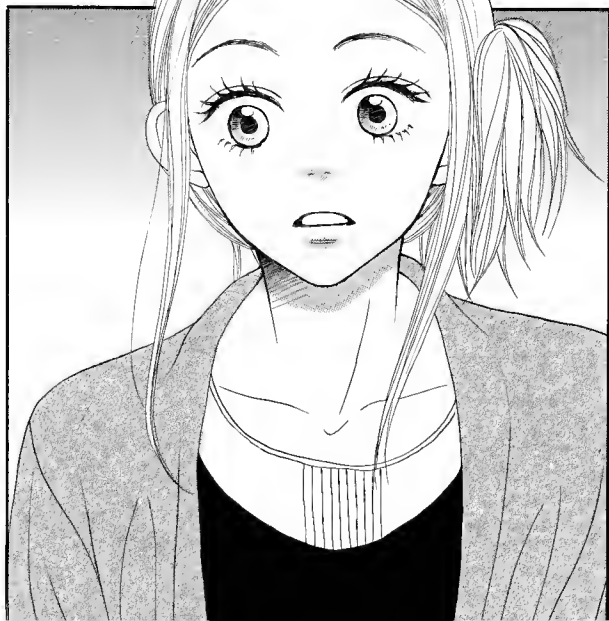


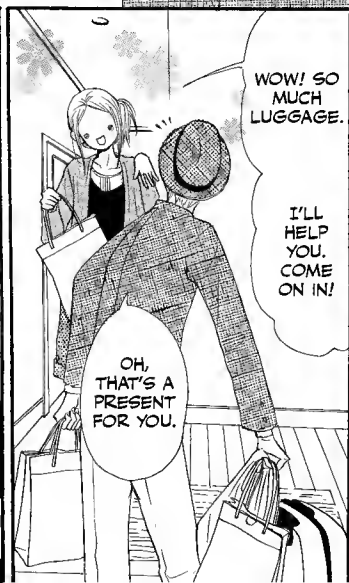
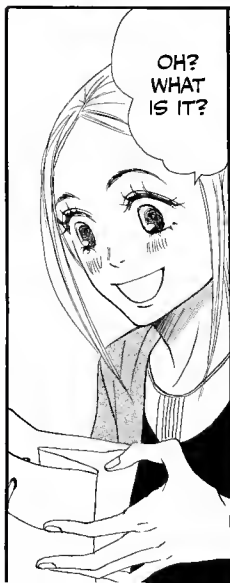
This is probably the most exciting time in my life. It's so rare that you get to see the production of a movie unfold before your very eyes. It's really interesting.

The filming is over. It was mainly shot in Tokyo, and since I'm based in Osaka I only got to see some of it. I'll have a chance to report on that later. The filming was done in the middle of winter. I wore two layers of thermals, a sweater, a coat and kairo warming packets on a blistering cold day of filming. The actors looked cold too. They all huddled together.

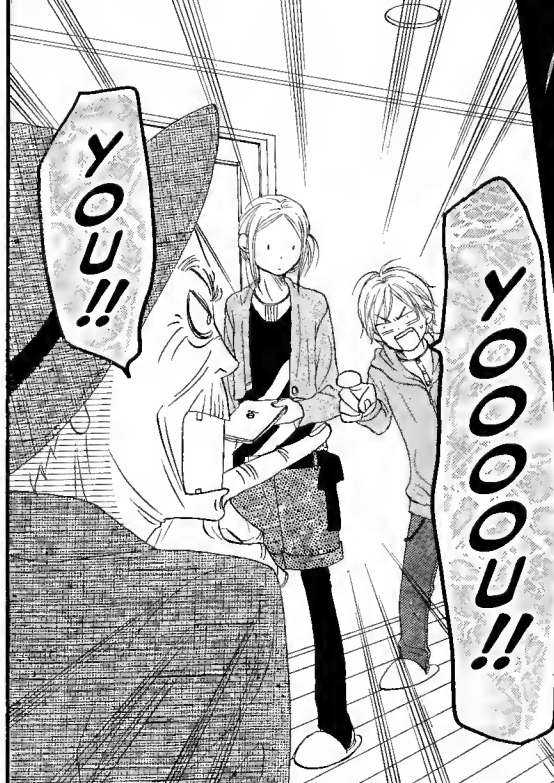
They're amazing.

The temperature was minus 2 degrees Celsius.









IT'S HIS
FAULT THAT
FIVE-PLUM
GIRLIE
SLIPPED
OUT
OF MY
GRASP!!

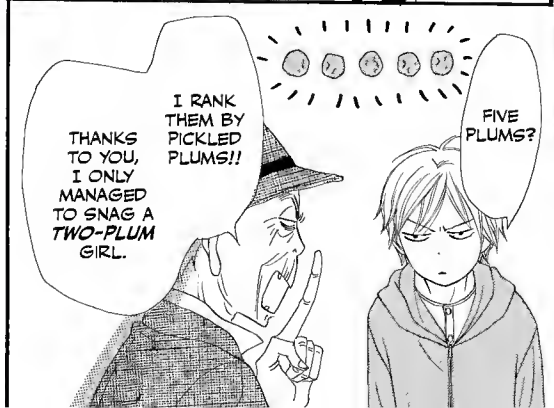
I
GUESS
SO.

ER...THAT
WEIRD OLD
MAN YOU
MENTIONED
EARLIER...
DID YOU
MEAN MY
GRANDPA?



YOU'RE
THAT
KINDER-
GARTEN
BRAT
FROM
EARLIER!!

WHO'S IN
KINDER-
GARTEN?



THANKS
TO YOU,
I ONLY
MANAGED
TO SNAG A
TWO-PLUM
GIRL.

I RANK
THEM BY
PICKLED
PLUMS!!

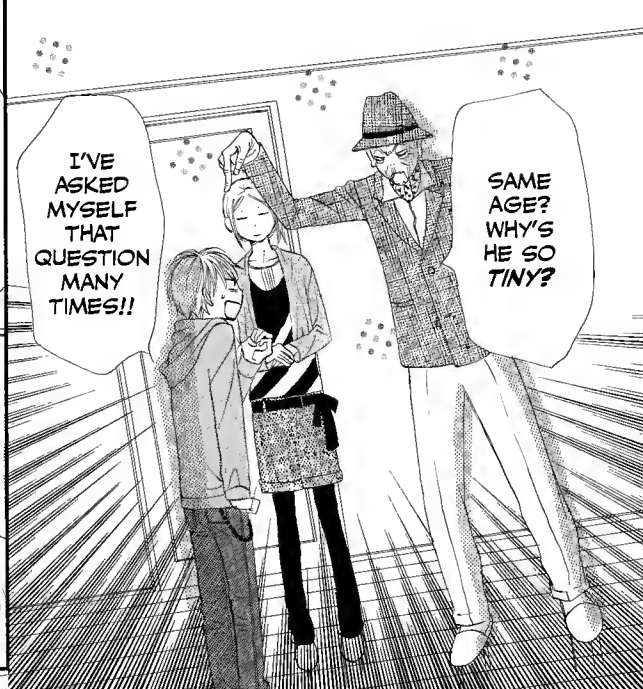
FIVE
PLUMS?





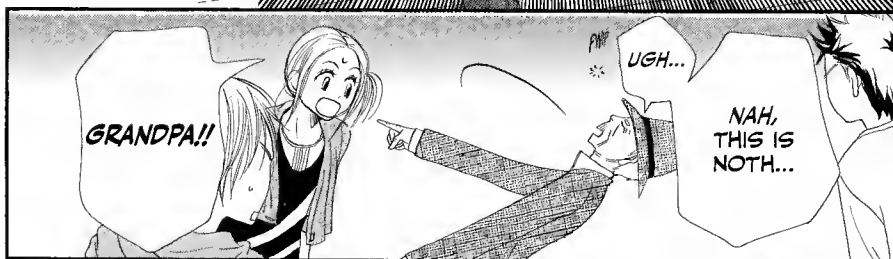
WATCH
YOUR
BLOOD
PRES-
SURE,
GRANDPA.

DON'T
BE RUDE
TO YOUR
ELDERS!!



I'VE
ASKED
MYSELF
THAT
QUESTION
MANY
TIMES!!

SAME
AGE?
WHY'S
HE SO
TINY?



GRANDPA!!

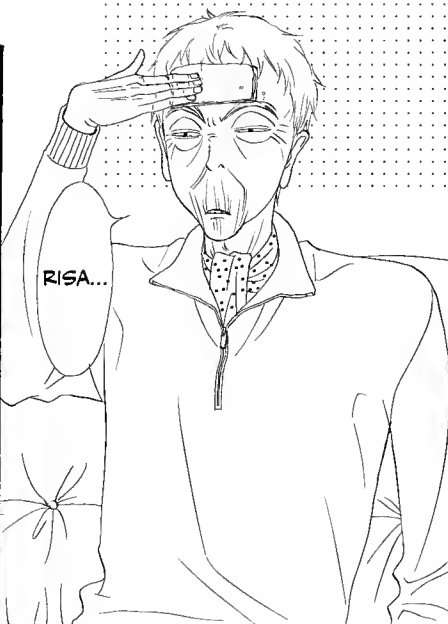
UGH...

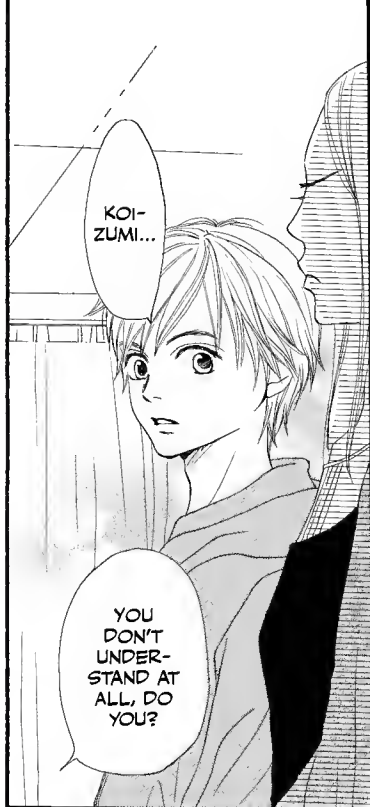
NAH,
THIS IS
NOTH...



...TURNING
INTO A
TOUCHY
SITUATION.

THIS
IS...





KOI-
ZUMI...

YOU
DON'T
UNDER-
STAND AT
ALL, DO
YOU?



THERE'S
NOTHING
BAD
ABOUT IT.

WE'RE FINE
WITH IT.
ISN'T THAT
ENOUGH?



WHAT'LL
YOU DO
NOW?
WHO'LL
GET IT
FOR
YOU?

AND
YOU
HURT
YOUR
BACK,
RISA?

WHAT
IF YOUR
WALLET
WAS UP
THERE...



SHP



OH!
♥

WHAT IF
YOU AND
SHORTY
DECIDE
TO SPEND
YOUR LIVES
TOGETHER?

SHORTY?

SHP









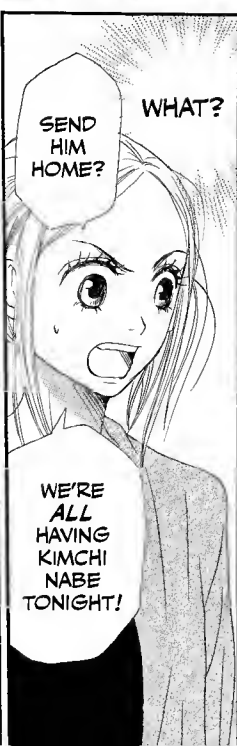
...A
SHORT
MAN IS
USELESS
IN A
CRISIS!!



YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO
DROPPED
BY WITHOUT
WARNING!!

I DON'T
INTEND TO
EAT FROM
THE SAME
POT AS
SHORTY!!

I'M TIRED
FROM
MY LONG
JOURNEY. HOW CAN
I RELAX
WITH A
STRANGER
AROUND?



SEND
HIM
HOME?

WHAT?

WE'RE
ALL
HAVING
KIMCHI
NABE
TONIGHT!



I REFUSE
TO ACKNOWL-
EDGE SUCH
A BOYFRIEND.

SEND
HIM
HOME!!



OTANI-KUN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO...

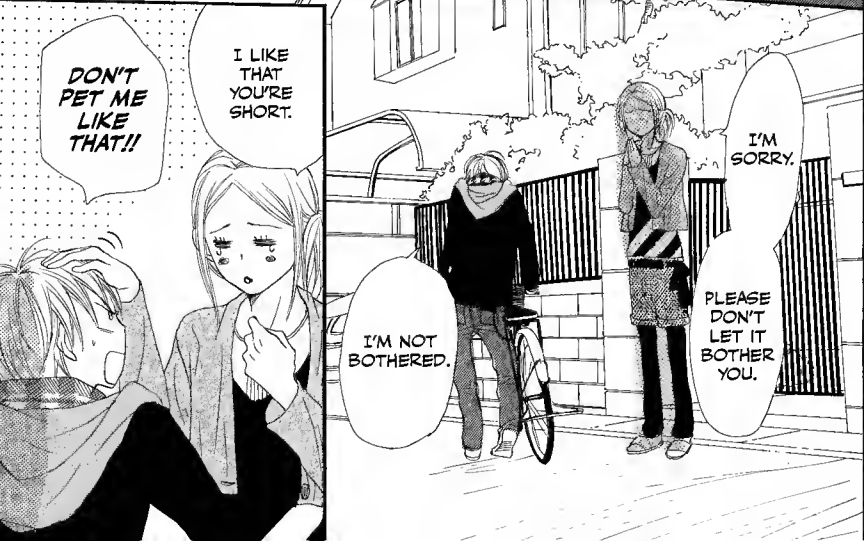
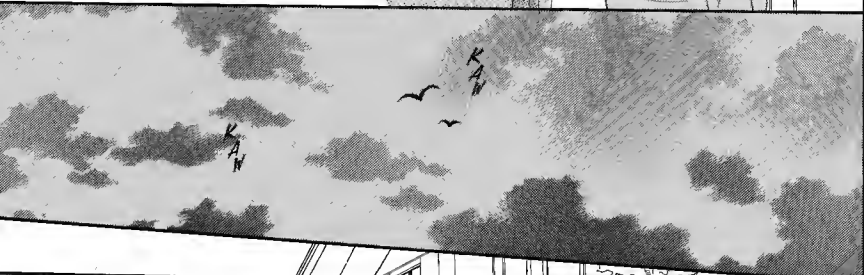
That's okay. I'll leave.

Nah, it's fine. If you'll excuse me...

I'M SORRY ABOUT GRAND-PA.

No problem.

HUH? NO!



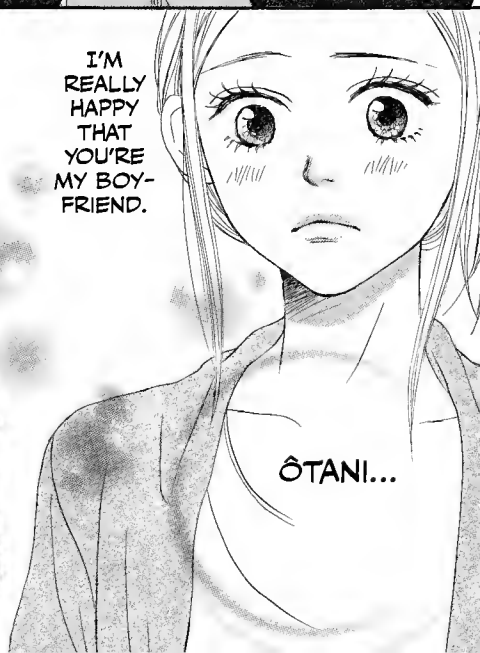
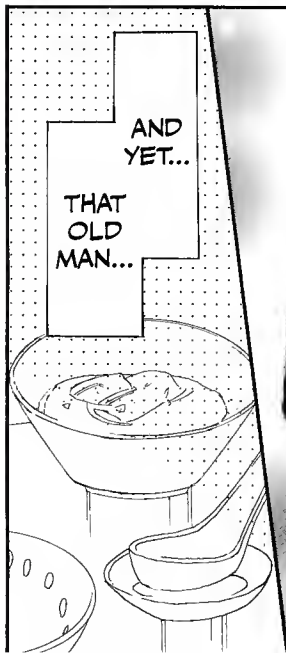
DON'T PET ME LIKE THAT!!

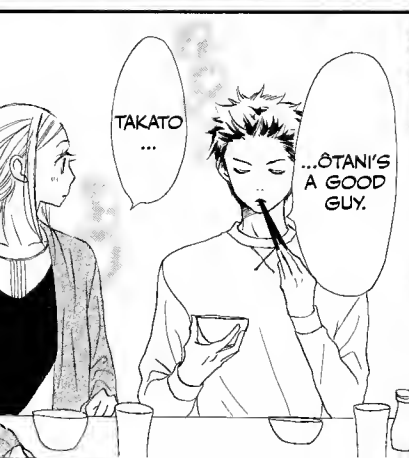
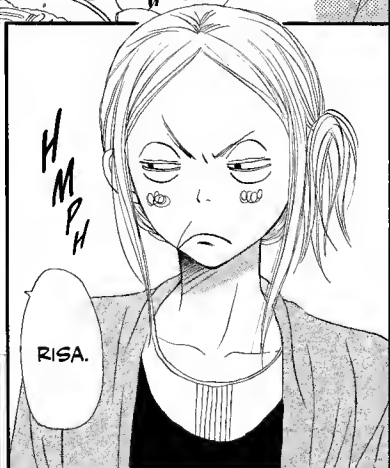
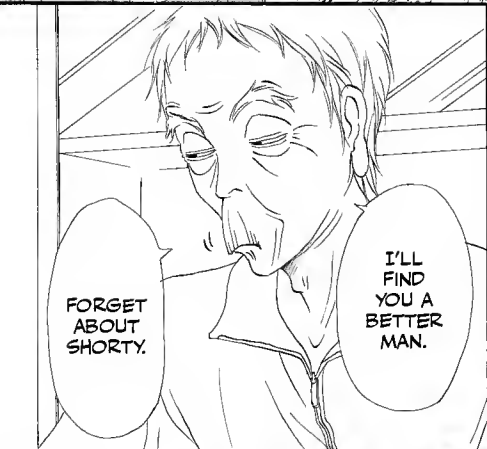
I LIKE THAT YOU'RE SHORT.

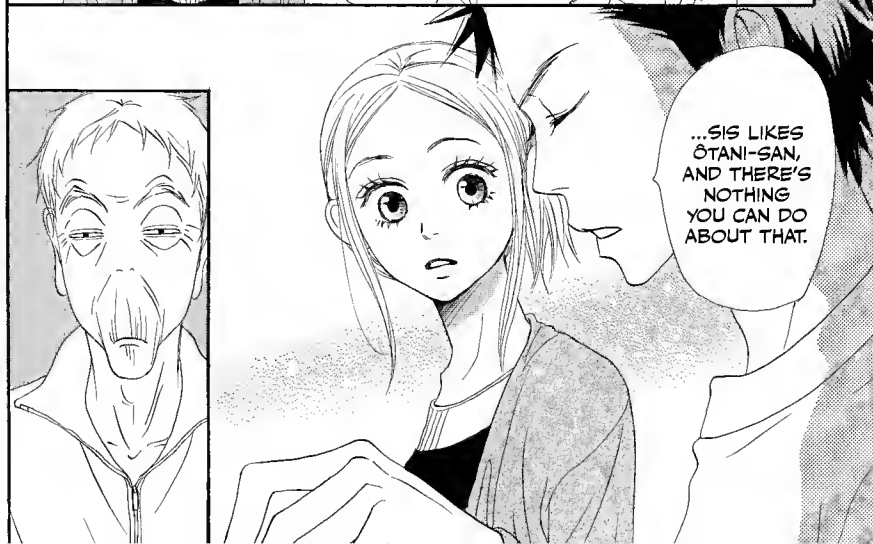
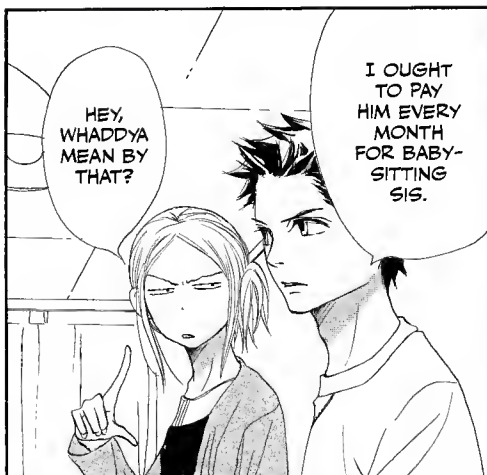
I'M NOT BOTHERED.

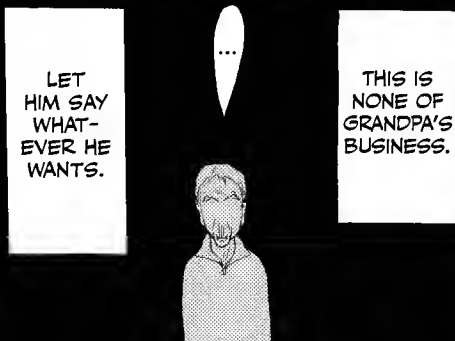
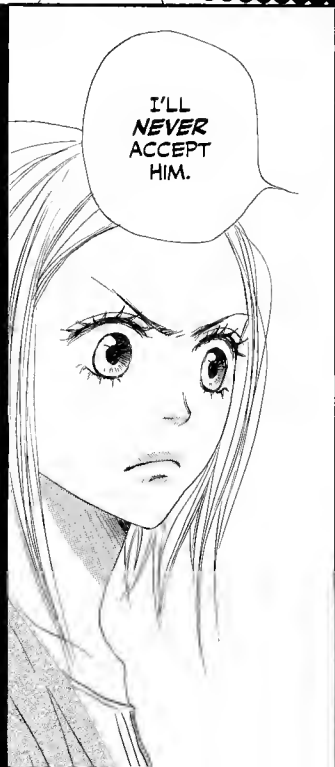
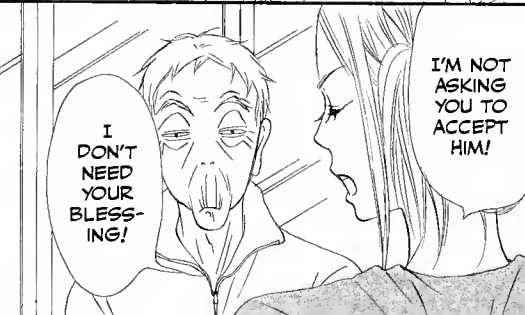
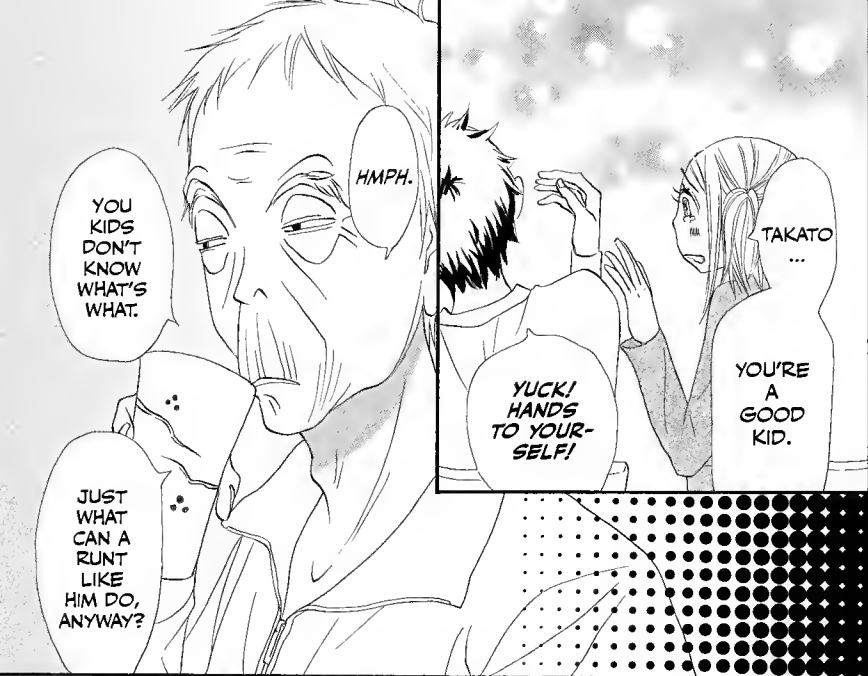
I'M SORRY.

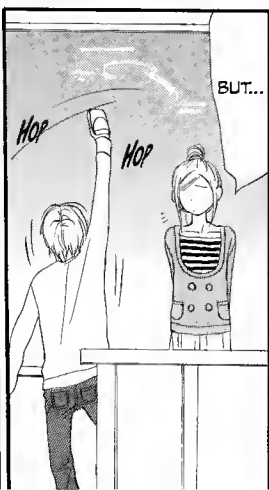
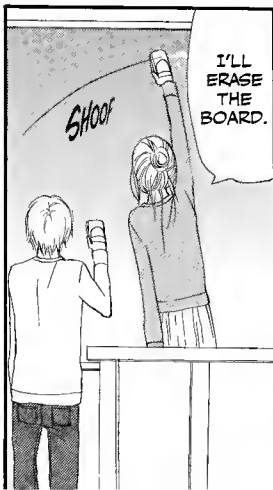
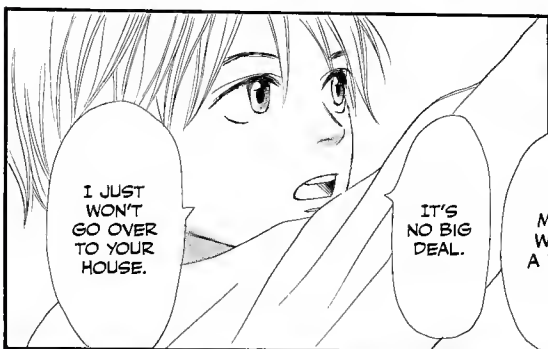
PLEASE DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU.





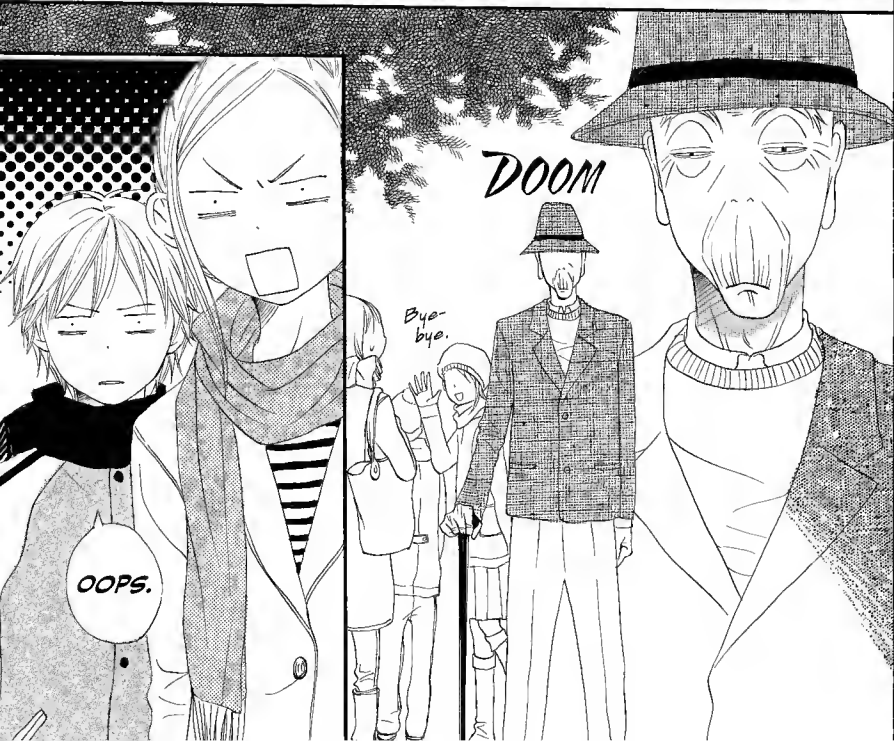






WE JUST
NEED TO
AVOID
GRANDPA,
THAT'S
ALL.

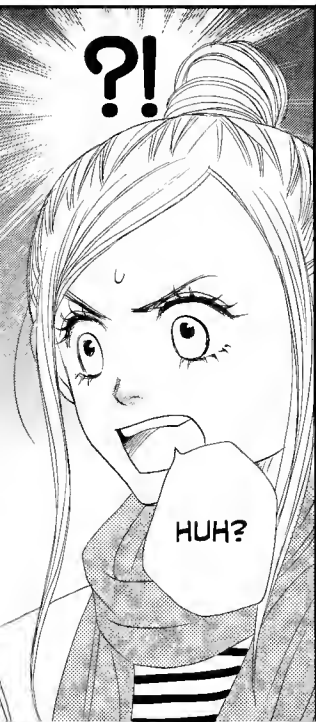
I DON'T
HAVE TO
WORRY.



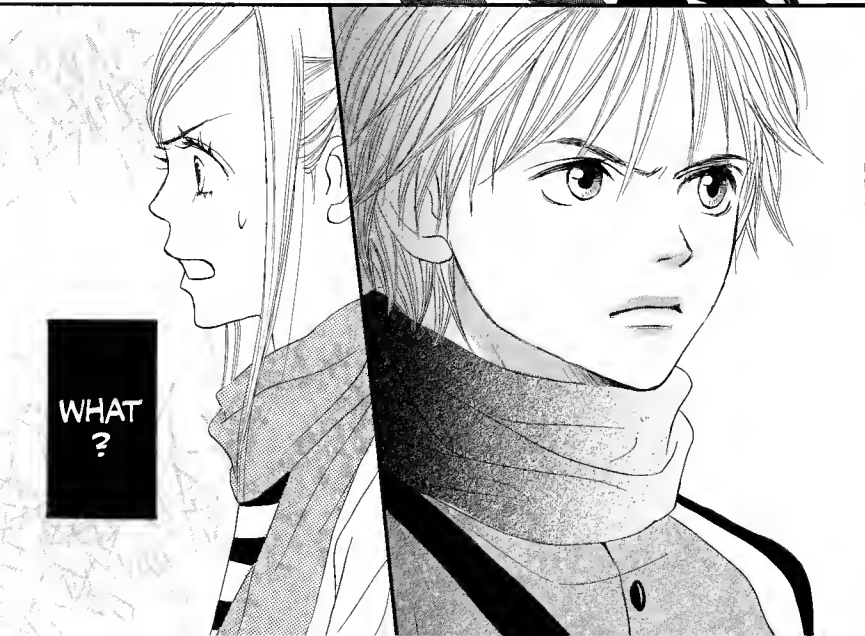












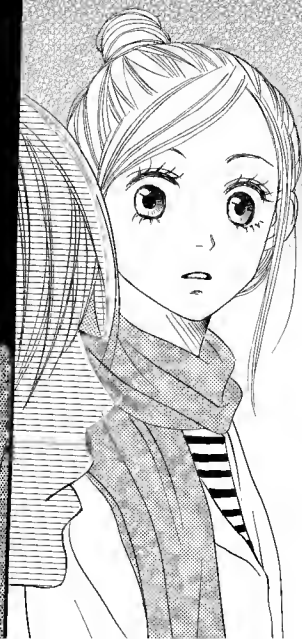


WHAT'RE
YOU...

I
CAN'T
DO
THAT.

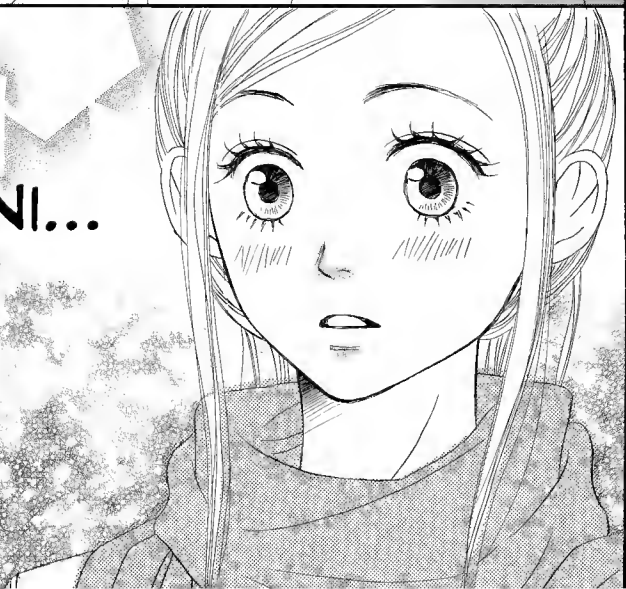


WHY
NOT?





ÔTANI...







REMEMBER
THOSE
WORDS.

YOU'LL
REGRET
THEM
LATER.

FINE,
GO
AHEAD.

BUT YOU
WON'T GET
YOUR WAY
WITH US.



RIGHT
BACK
ATCHA.

DON'T
UNDER-
ESTIMATE
ÔTANI
AND ME.



LET'S
GO,
OTANI!



OKAY!



BIP

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
GRANDPA'S
PLANNING.

BUT HE
CAN'T
TEAR US
APART.

SHUT
UP!

YOU'RE
NOT
NEEDED
ANY-
MORE,
SHRIMP!

WEREN'T
YOU
LISTENING
TO
GRANDPA?

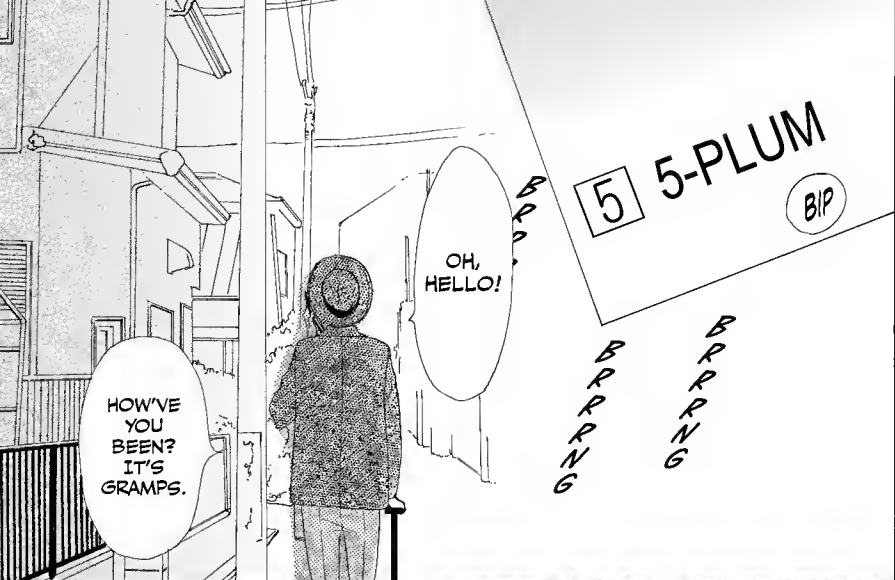
I'M
TAKING
RISA
HOME!!

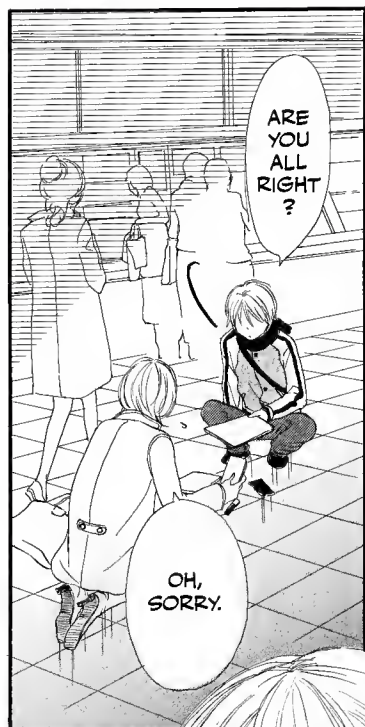
BIP

BIP

GROUP

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1 | 1-PLUM |
| 2 | 2-PLUM |
| 3 | 3-PLUM |
| 4 | 4-PLUM |
| 5 | 5-PLUM |





ARE
YOU
ALL
RIGHT
?

OH,
SORRY.



THOUGH
HE'S A
BIT OF A
SHORTY...



WOULD
YOU MIND
TAKING ME
TO THE
TICKET
GATE
AT THE
STATION?

I'M
SORRY.



I BROKE
MY
GLASSES
EARLIER...
AND
NOW I
CAN'T
SEE A
THING.

NO WAY.
REALLY?



I'M HOME!



SURE, NO PROBLEM!



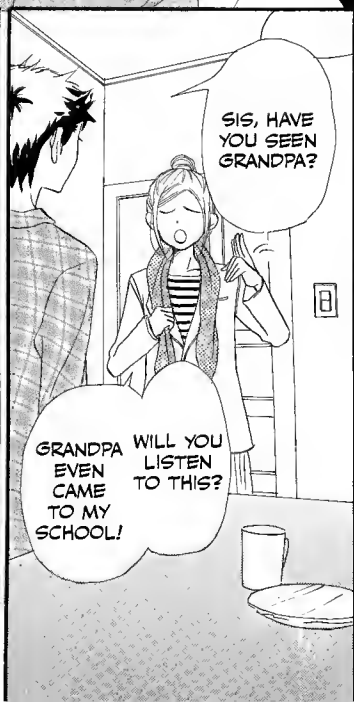
BUT AS LONG AS YOU'RE ROOTING FOR ME, I WON'T LOSE!!

I'M NOT "ROOTING" FOR YOU.



HUH? WHY?

HE'S HELL-BENT ON BREAKING US UP.



SIS, HAVE YOU SEEN GRANDPA?

GRANDPA EVEN CAME TO MY SCHOOL!

WILL YOU LISTEN TO THIS?





...WE'LL
BE
OKAY.

COME
WHAT
MAY...







CHAPTER 51



I DON'T
HAVE
THAT
KIND OF
TIME.

I'M
NOT
ABOUT
TO.

AND
DON'T
COME
AROUND
MY
SCHOOL
EITHER!



YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
FOLLOW
ME!



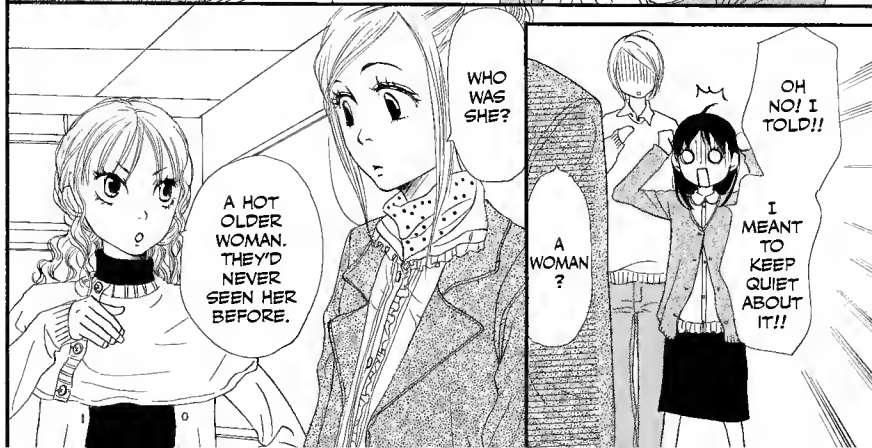
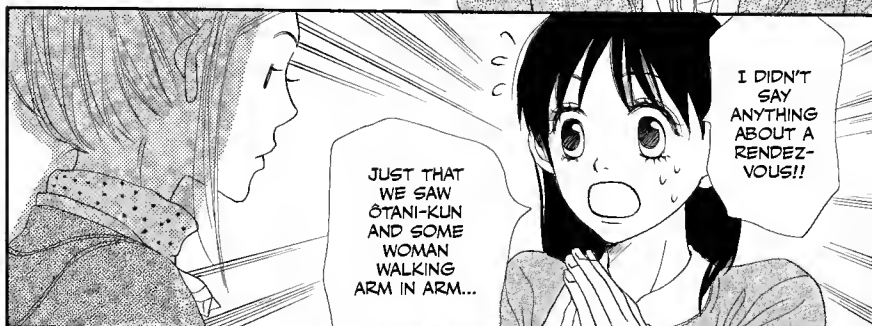
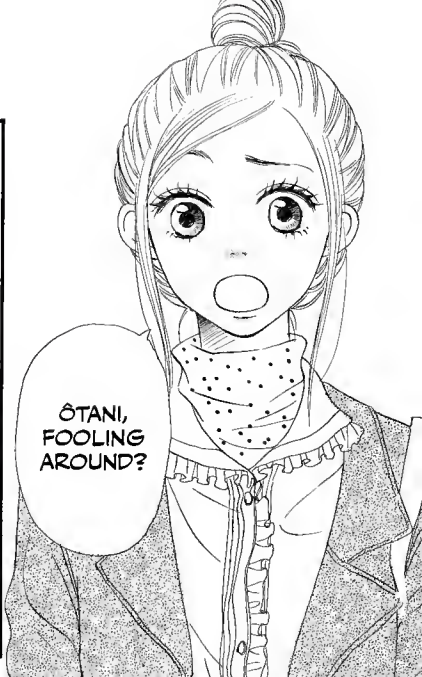
WHAT
WAS
THAT
ABOUT?

WAS
HE ALL
TALK?



WELL,
IF
THAT'S
HOW
YOU
HAVE WANT
IDEAS IT...
OF
MY OWN.

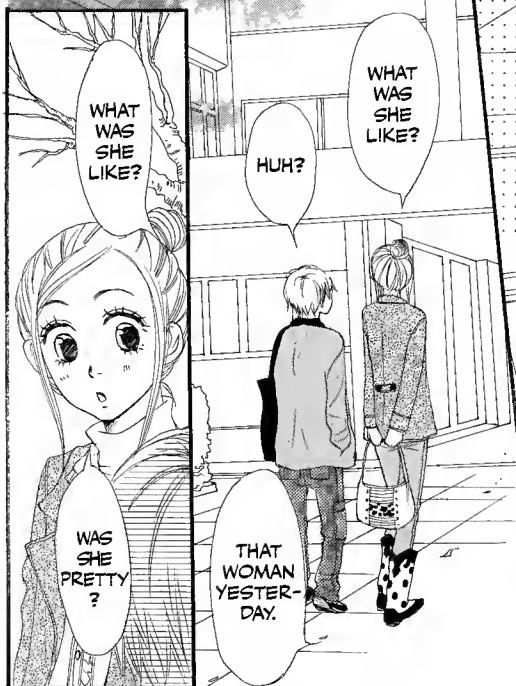












WHAT WAS SHE LIKE?

HUH?

WHAT WAS SHE LIKE?

WAS SHE PRETTY?

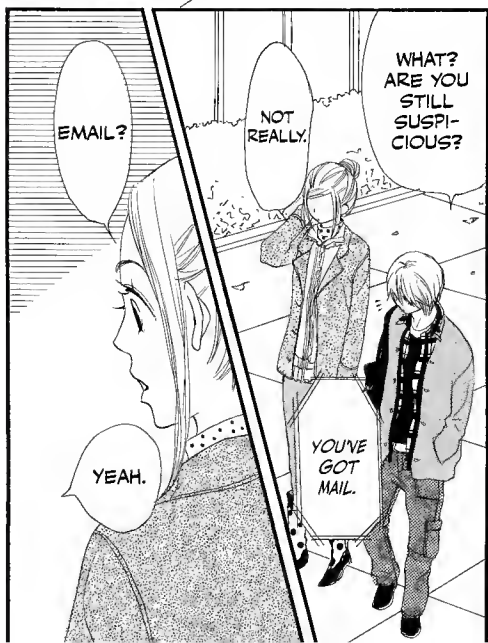
THAT WOMAN YESTER-DAY.



BOY, THAT WAS A SHOCK.

BUT SERIOUSLY, THERE'S NO WAY ÔTANI WOULD CHEAT ON ME.

So loud!



EMAIL?

NOT REALLY.

WHAT? ARE YOU STILL SUSPICIOUS?

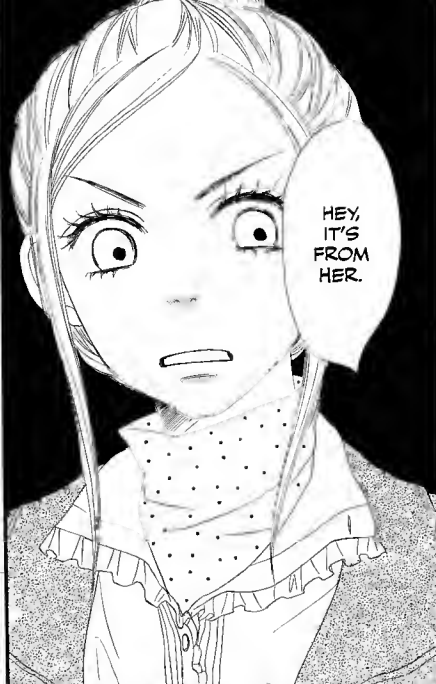
YEAH.

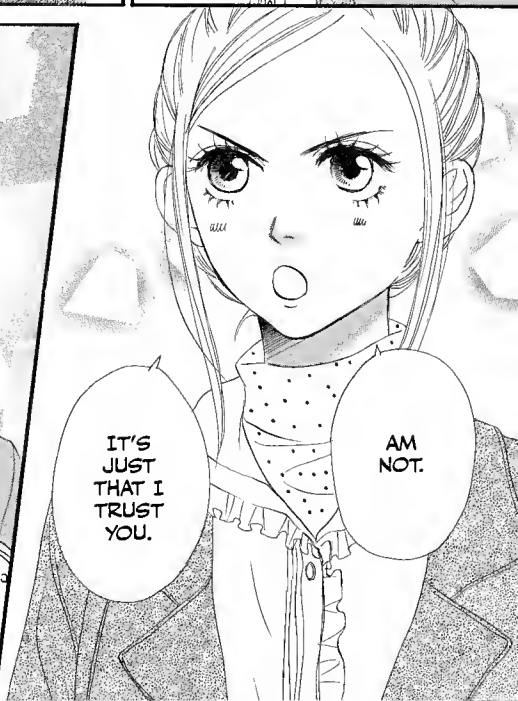
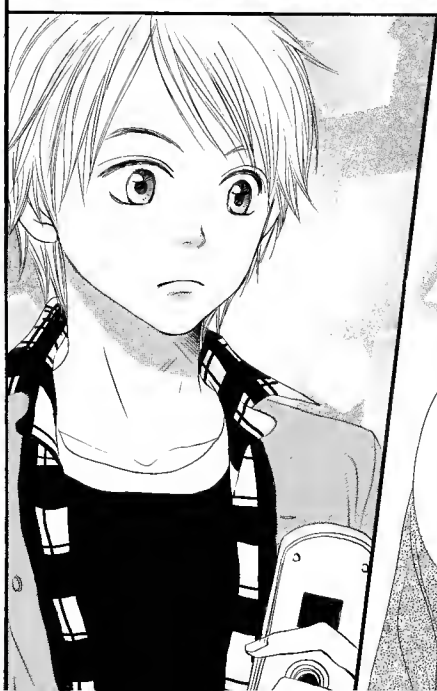
YOU'VE GOT MAIL.



OH.

WELL... YEAH.







I'LL
LET
IT
GO.

IF WE
ARGUE
OVER
SOME-
THING THIS
MINOR,
WE'RE
PLAYING
RIGHT INTO
GRANDPA'S
HANDS.

HEH
HEH!

WHO'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?
DON'T
GET FULL
OF YOUR-
SELF!



OH,
REALLY?

YEAH,
RIGHT.
YOU
LOVE
ME TOO
MUCH.

THINGS
COULD
GET
STEAMY...



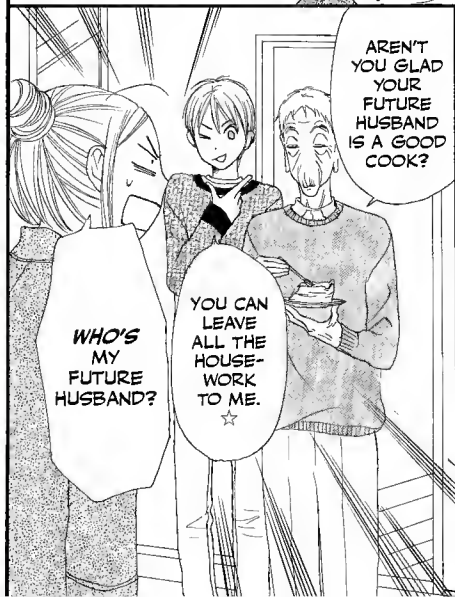
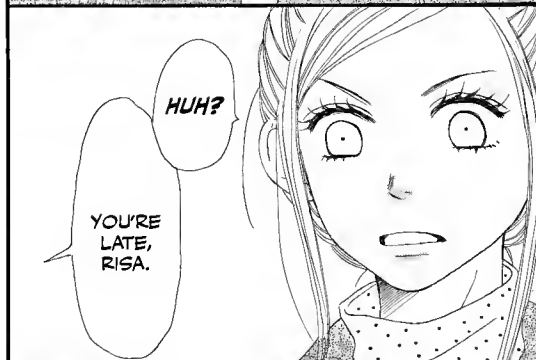
WELCOME
HOME.
♡

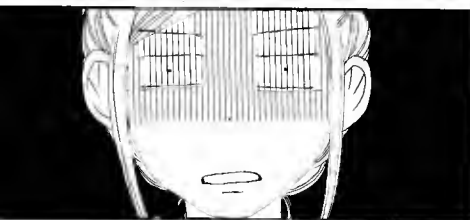


I'M
HOME!

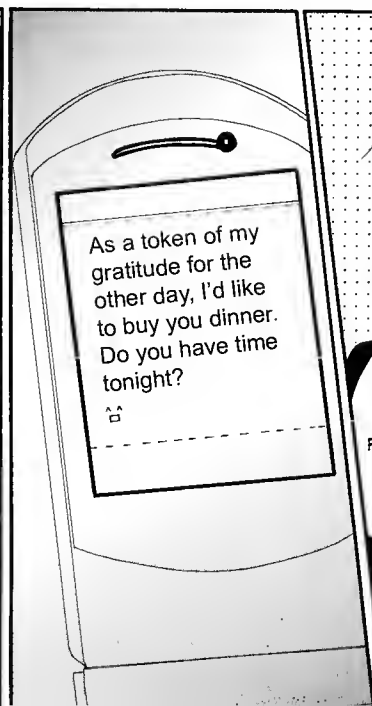
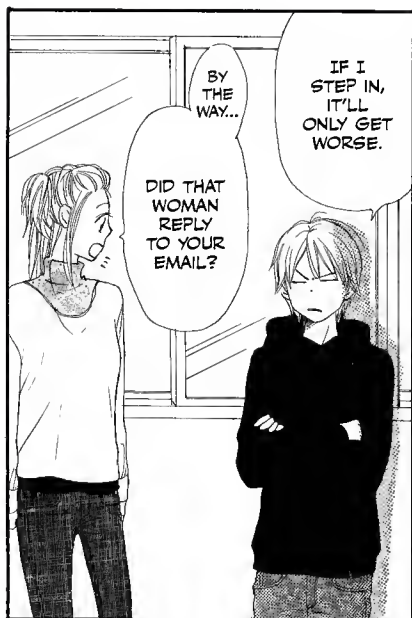
WE'RE A
LOVING
COUPLE
WITH FAITH
IN EACH
OTHER.

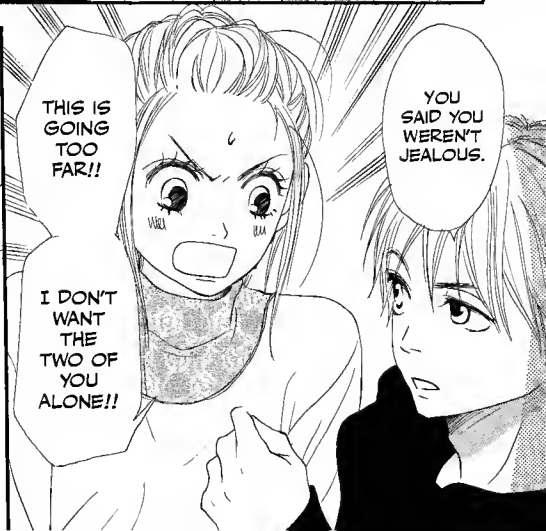














TOO
BAD.

I'M
NOT
GOING.

THERE'S
NO WAY
I'D DO
THAT.

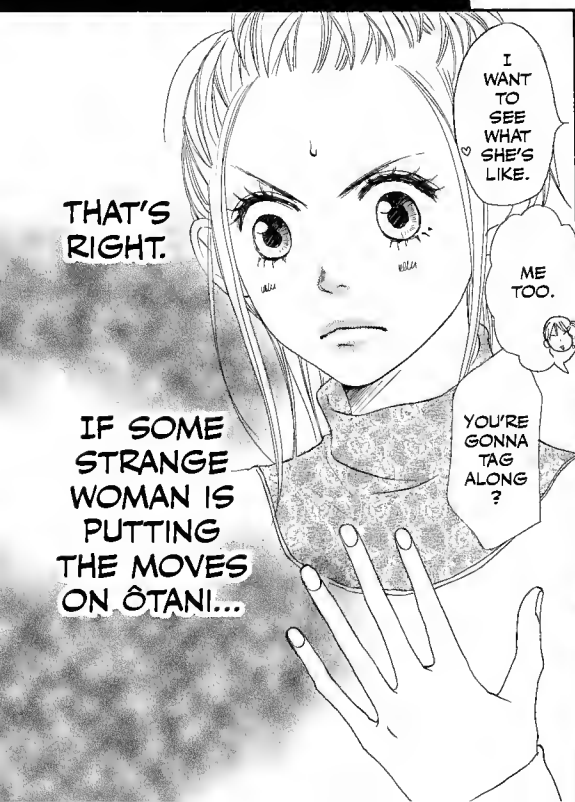


WHAT'RE
YOU TWO
PLOTING
OVER
THERE?

I
SEE...

.. STEP
UP AND
TELL HER
YOU'RE
HIS GIRL-
FRIEND!

BEFORE
SHE GOES
AFTER
ÔTANI
BEHIND
YOUR
BACK...



THAT'S
RIGHT.

IF SOME
STRANGE
WOMAN IS
PUTTING
THE MOVES
ON ÔTANI...

I WANT
TO SEE
WHAT
SHE'S
LIKE.

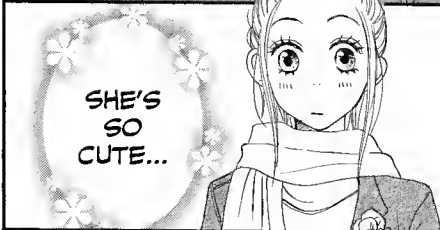
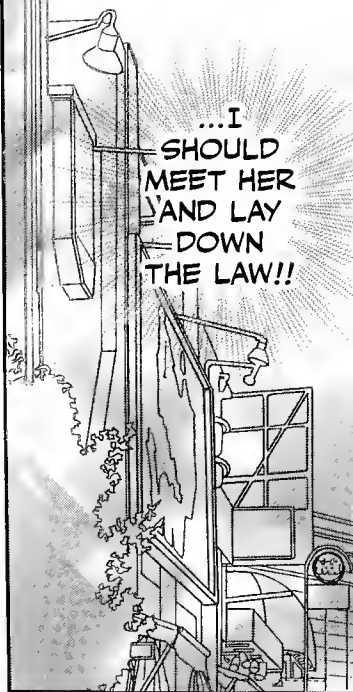
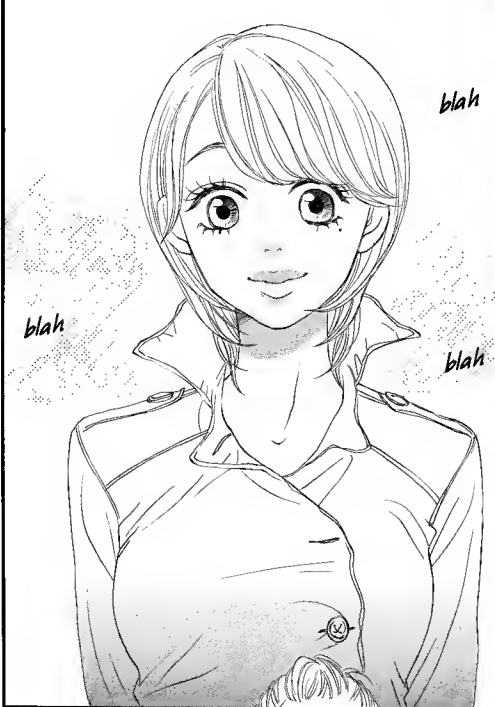
ME
TOO.

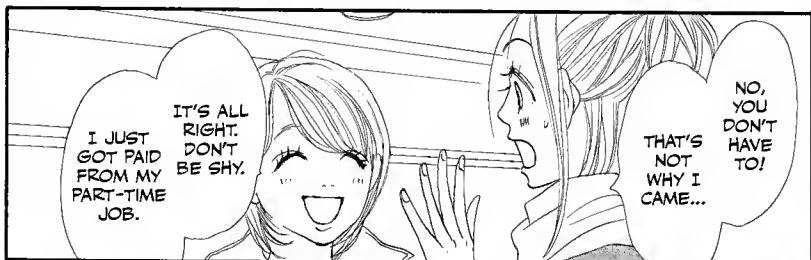
YOU'RE
GONNA
TAG
ALONG
?




WHAT'D
YOU DO
THAT
FOR,
YOU
IDIOT?

I JUST
REPLIED
THAT♡
YOU'D BE
THERE.
♡





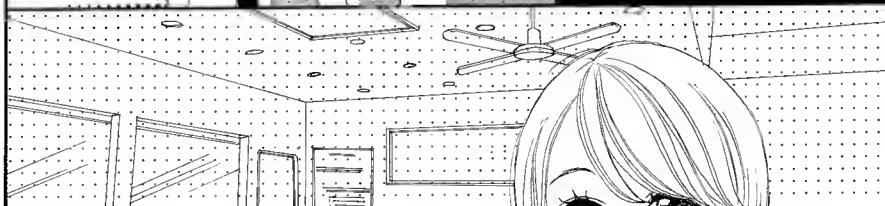


I HAVE TO
TELL HER
CLEARLY...

TO
KEEP
HER
MITTS
OFF
ÔTANI...

THAT'S
RIGHT.
I HAVE
TO STAY
ALERT.

AH
DON'T
JUST
STAND
THERE!!
BE
BOLD!!

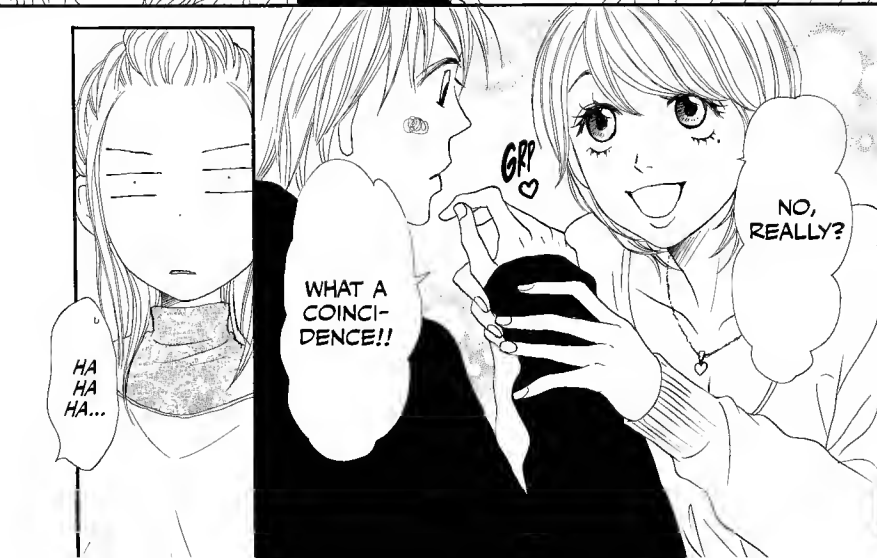


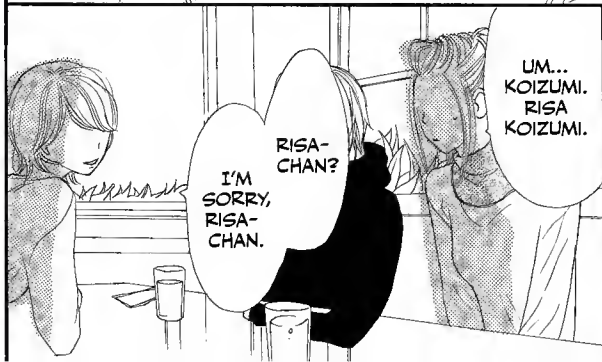
CHECK
OUT THE
BAZOOMS!!

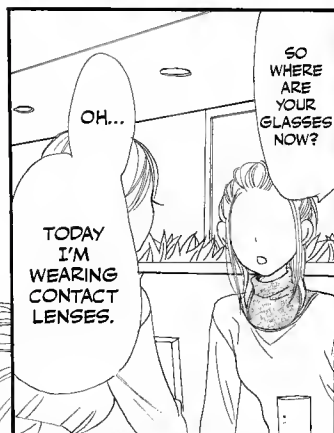
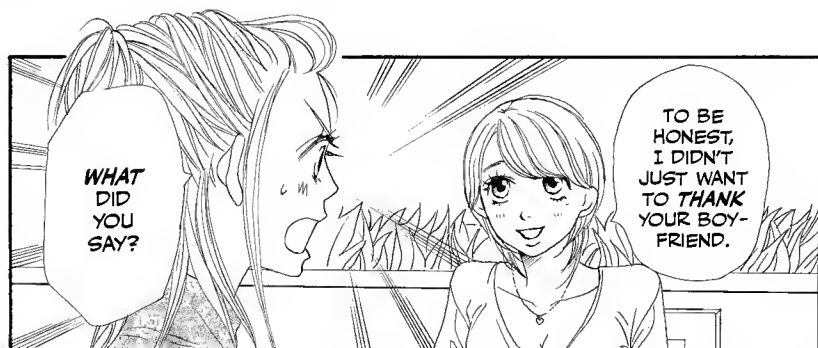
EEP!

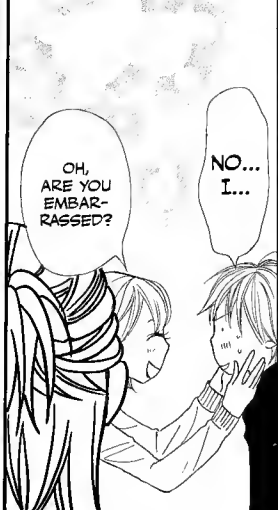


PLEASE
ORDER
WHAT-
EVER
YOU
LIKE.









OH,
ARE YOU
EMBAR-
RASSED?

NO...
I...



YOU'RE
JUST
SITTING
THERE IN
A DAZE!!

HEY,
WHAT'S
YOUR
PROBLEM
?



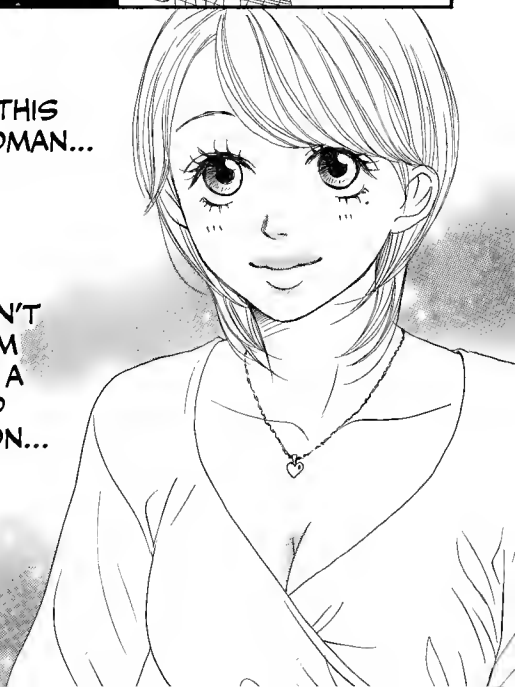
NO
KIDDING?

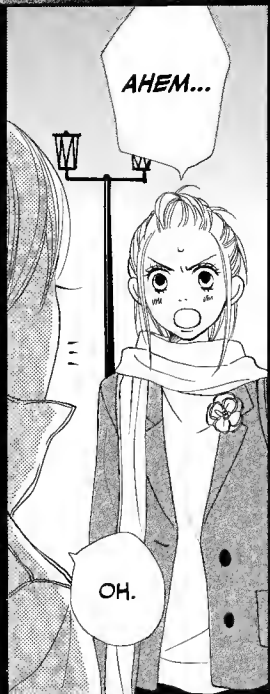
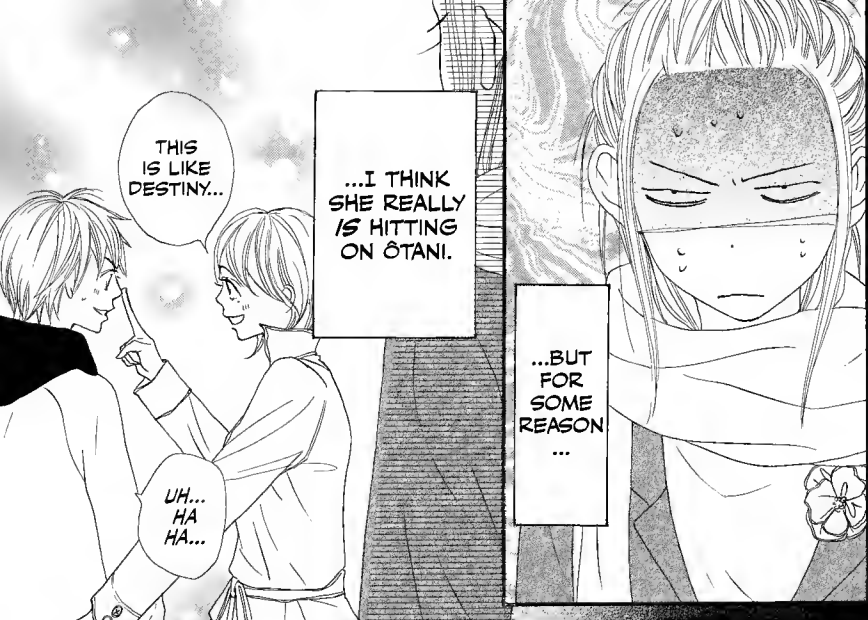
REALLY?
THEN
WE'LL BE
ATTENDING
THE SAME
COLLEGE!

I'M
IN MY
SECOND
YEAR
THERE.

THIS
WOMAN...

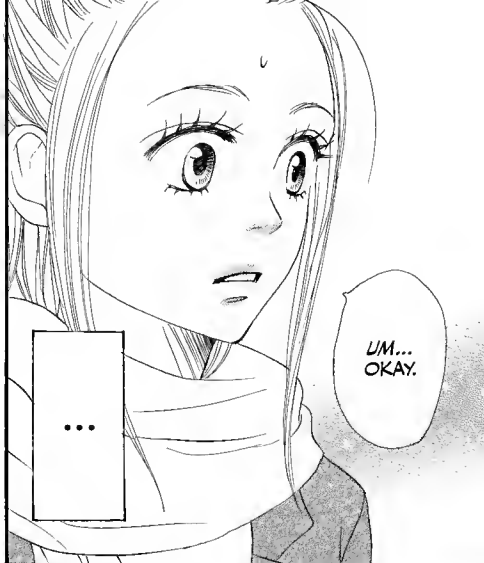
DOESN'T
SEEM
LIKE A
BAD
PERSON...







WAS IT MY
IMAGINATION?



UM...
OKAY.

...



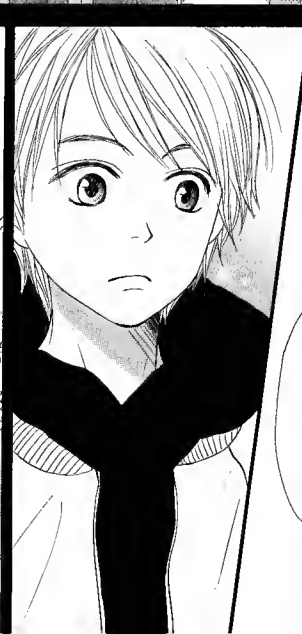
OTANI...

WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING?
LET'S
GO.



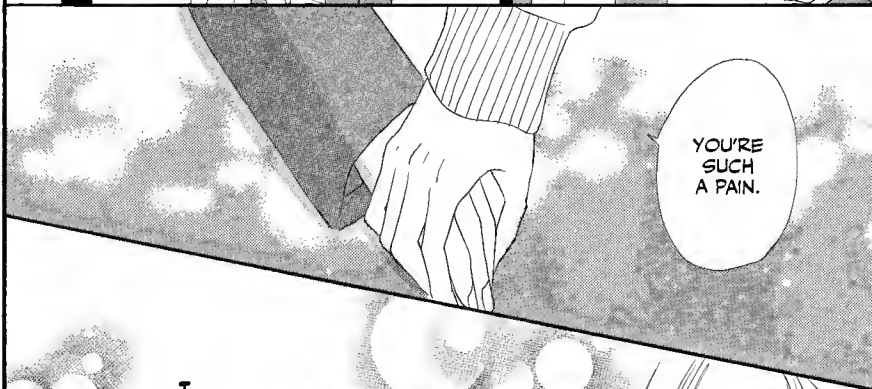
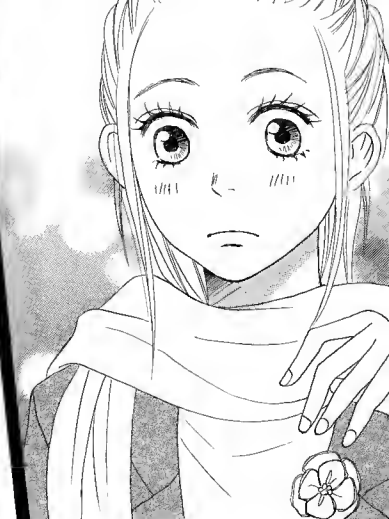
YOU
WERE
PAYING
SO
MUCH
ATTEN-
TION TO
HER!

OF
COURSE
I WON'T.
WHAT'S
THE BIG
DEAL?



PLEASE
DON'T
SEE HER
ANYMORE,
OKAY?







Hey, we're already at the end. Um...Please, please check out the movie when it opens! I've looked at so many stills and I've said, "Oh that's so cute," so often, it should last me a lifetime.

I mean, it's really, really cute.

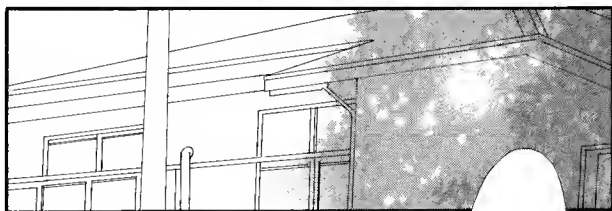
But I'll stop saying how cute it is and get back to concentrating on my manga.

I really will do my best!

Anyway, I hope we can meet again in Volume 14!

Yuse &

March 2006





I PUT
HER UP
TO A
LITTLE
CHAL-
LENGE.

THAT WAS
THE TOP
HOSTESS
AT MY
FAVORITE
BAR.



IS IT
DINNER-
TIME?

ARE YOU
DOING
SOME-
THING
TO
OTANI-
SAN?

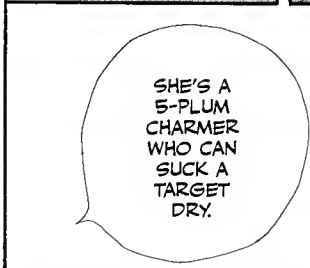
...

BIP



FOR MY
GRAND-
DAUGHTER'S
SAKE, TAKE
HIM DOWN.

CALL
ME
BACK.



SHE'S A
5-PLUM
CHARMER
WHO CAN
SUCK A
TARGET
DRY.

A
HOSTESS
?



BEFORE
YOU KNOW
IT, YOU'RE
OBSESSED
WITH HER.

I'M NOT
DUMB.
SHE'S
JUST
THAT
GOOD.

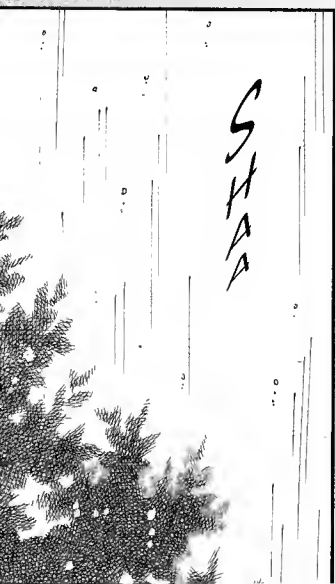
I
DIDN'T
KNOW
YOU
WERE
THAT
DUMB...

...GRAND-
PA.



ONCE SHE
GOT ME TO
SPEND TEN
MILLION YEN
ON A NEW
CAR FOR
HER.

YIKES.









DON'T
YOU
HAVE AN
UMBRELLA?
YOU'LL
CATCH A
COLD!!

IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
...

I'M
WAIT-
ING
FOR
SOME-
ONE...

WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING
OUT
IN THE
RAIN?



WHAT?

I'M SO
HOPE-
LESS.
I SHOULD
JUST DIE.

MY
BOY-
FRIEND
...

...JUST
DUMPED
ME.



IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
WHAT
HAPPENS
TO ME.

HUH?



THAT
WOMAN...
I THINK
GRANDPA
PUT HER
UP TO IT.



ATSUSHI-
KUN...

...WILL
YOU
COMFORT
ME?

B
D
M
P

COULD...

...IT
BE
TRUE?

B
D
M
P

blah

blah

BETTER
WATCH
OUT.

B
D
M
P

I'M
SUPER
SORRY.

I'M NOT
GONNA
BE ABLE
TO MAKE
IT TODAY.

Um...

HEY,
OTANI!

WHERE
THE
HECK
ARE
YOU?

YIKES!

I
THOUGHT
THE
WHOLE
THING
SEEMED
FISHY...

WORD
ON DA
STREET!
YOU GOT
A PHONE
CALL!!



HELLO?

HEY,
OTANI!!



SORRY.
I'LL
EXPLAIN
LATER.

BIP

WHAT?

WHY?
WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING?



I'VE
GOT...

...A
BAD
FEEL-
ING
ABOUT
THIS.

I'M
HOME.



BEE
BEE
BEE

...

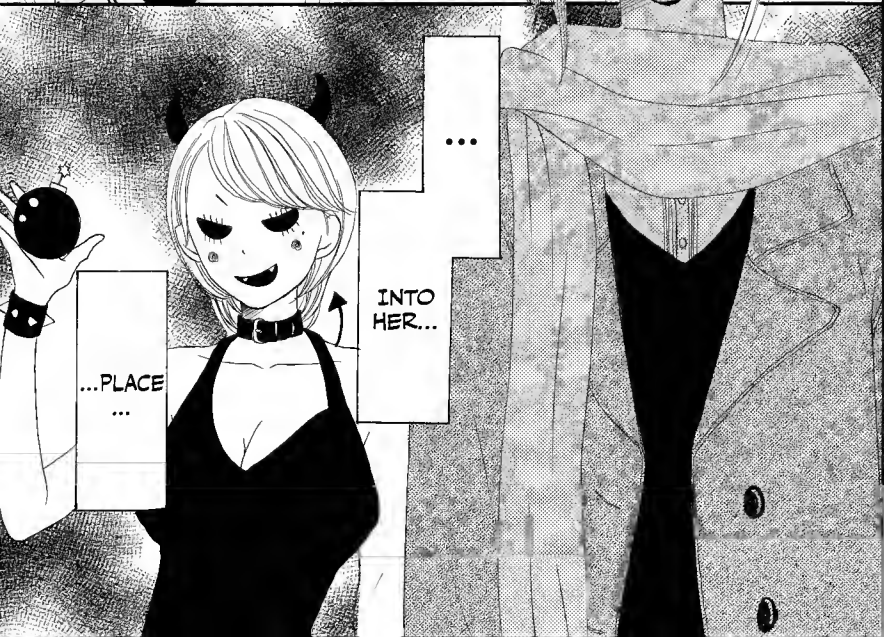
BEE
BEE
BEE

BEE
BEE
BEE

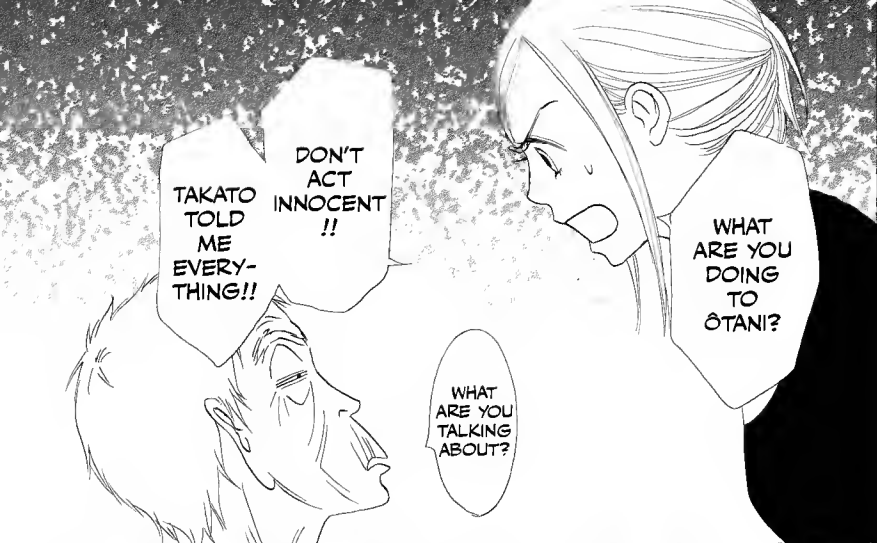
BEE
BEE
BEE

BEE
BEE
BEE











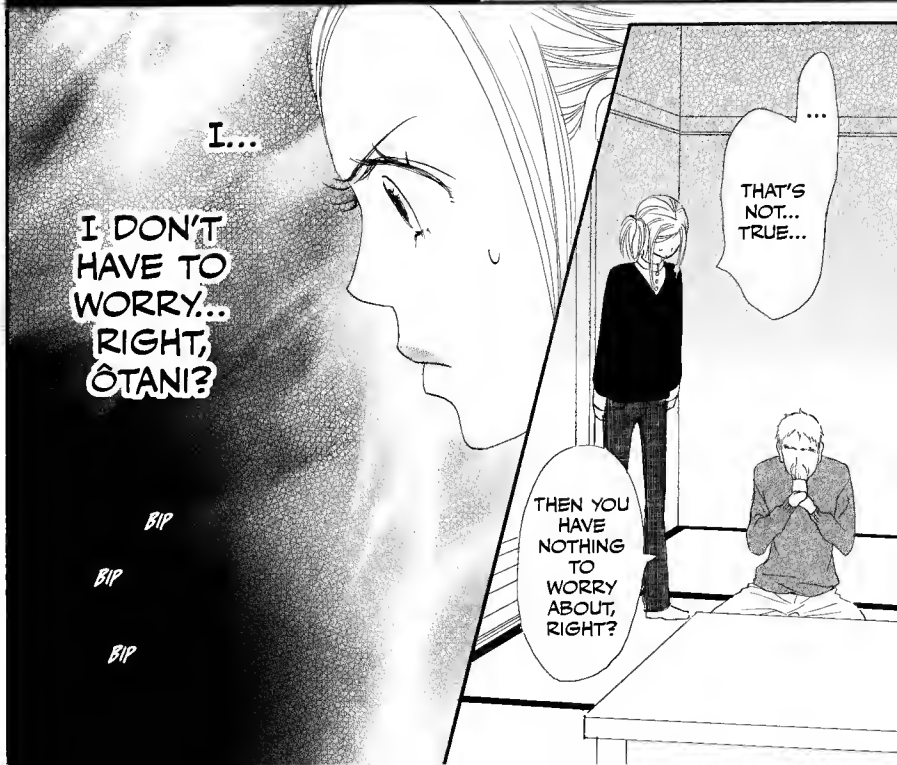
SOUNDS
LIKE
HE'S A
FICKLE
ONE.

NO...



IF HE
TRULY
LOVED
YOU, HE
WOULDN'T
DO SUCH
A THING.

AM I
RIGHT?



I...

I DON'T
HAVE TO
WORRY...
RIGHT,
ÔTANI?

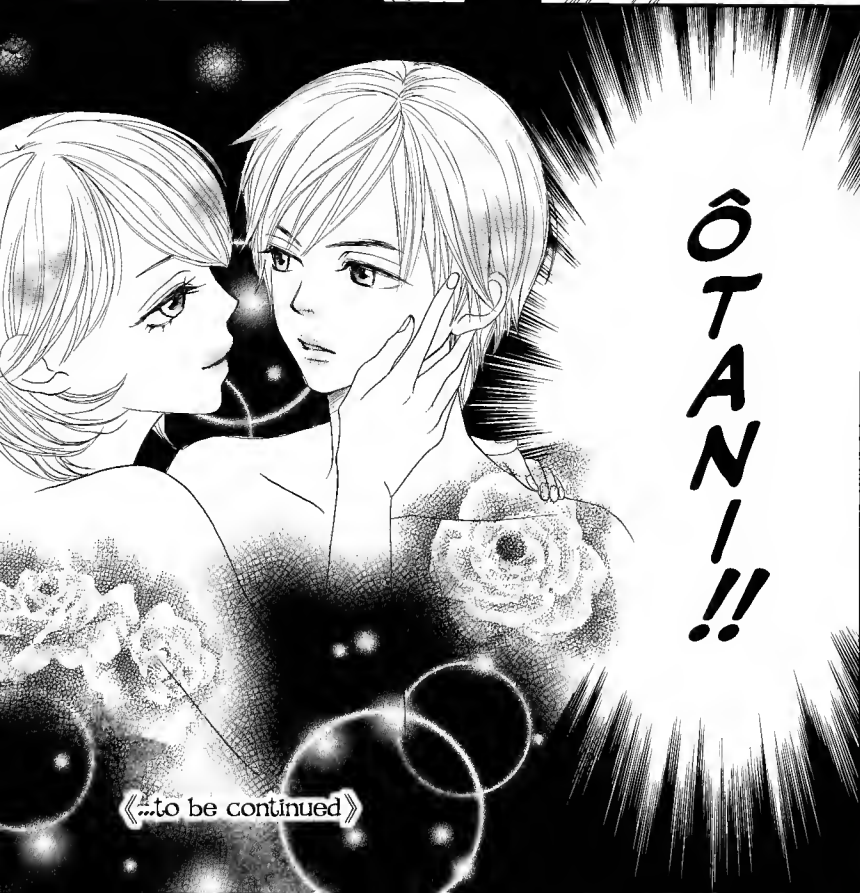
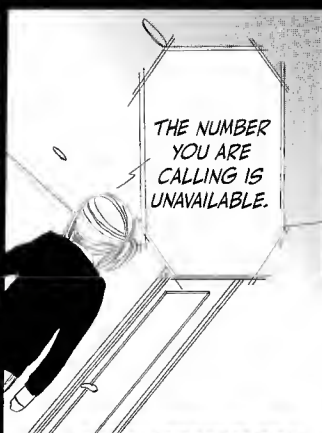
BIP

BIP

BIP

...
THAT'S
NOT...
TRUE...

THEN YOU
HAVE
NOTHING
TO
WORRY
ABOUT,
RIGHT?



《to be continued》

glossary

Page 27, sidebar: Live-action movie

Love★Com the Movie is now available on DVD in the U.S. from VIZ Pictures. The DVD includes interviews with Ema Fujisawa, who plays Risa Koizumi, and Teppei Koike, who plays Atsushi Ôtani.

Page 51, panel 2: Entrance exam

Most high schools in Japan require students to pass an entrance exam. Instead of simply attending the high school closest to one's home, students can try to get into a more prestigious school.

Page 95, panel 4: Kimchi

Korea's national dish, *kimchi* is a vegetable pickle seasoned with garlic, red pepper and ginger. It has a very pungent aroma—not a very elegant gift to bring to a girlfriend's house.

Page 102, panel 2: Kimchi nabe

Kimchi nabe is similar to a bouillabaisse—a spicy, soupy dish with meat, seafood, vegetables and kimchi.

Page 170, panel 3: Hostess

Grandpa hired a professional flirt to seduce Ôtani. Women employed at Japan's hostess bars are adept at making men feel like VIPs. They laugh at patrons' jokes, pour their drinks, light their cigarettes and provide cheerful, undivided attention.



Every year, my powers of concentration get weaker, which worries me. I'll be thinking about something I want to draw, then my eyes focus on the piles of old magazines lying around. So I start to put them away, but I get curious about the articles and start reading. Then I realize that a book I wanted to read hits the stands today and I have to rush out and buy it! I change my clothes and go into town, grab a bite to eat 'cause by then I'm hungry, buy the book, go home and settle down to read...and boy, I'm sleepy. Woit! What was I supposed to do today? That's how it goes.

Aya Nakahara won the 2003 Shogakukan Manga Award for her breakthrough hit *Love★Com*, which was made into a major motion picture and a PS2 game in 2006. She debuted with *Haru to Kuuki Nichiyō-bi* in 1995, and her other works include *HANADA* and *Himitsu Kichi*.

LOVE★COM VOL 13

The Shōjo Beat Manga Edition



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